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TOMORROW

MAGAZINE

GINNY DOUGARY
MEETS KEVIN
AND PANDORA
MAXWELL

'We are one of the few nations on earth who have the military capability to help in Zaire'

Troops will be allowed to use force

By Philip Webster
POLITICAL EDITOR AND
MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH troops sent to Zaire to ease the plight of more than a million starving refugees will be able to shoot their way out of trouble if they are intercepted by the Hutu militia, MPs were told yesterday.

Amid fears that the death toll could rise to 20,000 a day in Zairean refugee camps by next week, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, told the Commons that if the objective was to reach the starving and if people stood in the way "then those people must be prepared to face the consequences of their action".

The 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment and 45 Commando Royal Marines, the lead elements of the new Joint Rapid Deployment Force, were put on 72 hours' notice to leave for Zaire.

As Tutsi rebels continued fighting against Hutu militia in eastern Zaire yesterday, Mr Portillo admitted in the Commons that he had reservations about sending troops to the central African war zone.

Today a 37-strong reconnaissance party, led by Royal Marines Brigadier Jonathan Thomson, commander of the Joint Rapid Deployment Force, will leave from RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire to carry out a three-day survey to help define the size of Britain's contribution.

However, Mr Portillo indicated that it was likely to be a battalion (about 600) with additional support units, including engineers, signals and medical teams, increasing the size of the force to between 1,000 and 1,500, or even more if the reconnaissance party urges a larger contingent.

Mr Portillo said the most important factor would be to ensure they were "sufficiently well equipped and armed and there in sufficient numbers to be able to look after themselves and be able to do a good job in saving human life".

His assurance that the troops would be adequately armed to defend themselves came after both he and the



Portillo: four-month limit on British tour

Prime Minister told MPs that Britain, along with other Western governments, had a moral obligation to try to alleviate the suffering.

Facing strong misgivings about the mission among Conservative MPs, as well as among several ministers and military advisers, Mr Portillo said it would be rightly asked why Britain should become involved in a place far from home and where there was no vital national interest.

The answer was because Britain was a civilised nation, he said. "We can see people about to die in their thousands, and we are one of the few nations on earth who have the military capability to help at least some of them," he told MPs.

He said the mission of the international force would be limited to about four months, after which the operation

would be handed over to African nations.

Mr Portillo said he had an open mind about whether the mission should include disarming the militia, admitting that "if we leave in four months and the militia is still armed, people will starve next year".

He added: "There isn't a person in this House who isn't worried and who doesn't have reservations. This is a worrying situation and one must have reservations about what we're getting into here, but the compelling case for getting assistance to these people who are about to starve is what is guiding us."

John Major told the Commons that the situation on the ground was complex, the terrain was very tough and there was no clear ceasefire between Tutsi rebels and their Hutu foes.

"So before sending British troops we need to be absolutely clear about what they are being asked to do in detail and the conditions under which they will operate," he said.

The multinational force will be operating under Chapter 7 of the United Nations charter which provides more "robust" rules of engagement for peace enforcement, allowing them to do more to protect themselves and to secure the mission.

The Royal Marine commandos have armoured tracked BV206 vehicles but the paratroopers are only lightly armed. However, the Joint Rapid Deployment Force which consists of 5 Airborne Brigade, also has the use of armoured Scimitars equipped with 30mm cannon.

In the Lords, Earl Howe, a junior Defence Minister, said the multinational force could be ready to move to Zaire within a week or two, although he conceded this could be over-optimistic.

Earl Howe said: "It's not part of our objective to be sucked into someone else's war."

Matthew Parris, page 2
Zaire in crisis, pages 14-17
Leading article and letters, page 21



Refugees from disease and battle arrive in the port of Goma. Tens of thousands of people are fleeing the fighting between Tutsis and Hutus

The horror that will lead to broken hearts

THE eyes were swollen like ping-pong balls. The skin was peeling away around them. By the waves of Lake Kivu I stared down at a bearded man of about 35. He had been garrotted, a rope dug into the flesh of his neck, his head bashed in, his arms tied behind his back, his legs folded and stuffed into a sack.

The hardest hearts of paratroopers can be broken by the satanic violence of the Great Lakes region's cheerful and friendly people. The only thing systematic here is that violence — and the spread of disease. British troops will be struck dumb by the beauty of the Great Lakes. Then the sickness will strike them down. Then they will leave, thinking of the Nyaragongo volcano beside Goma not as a natural wonder, but as a hideous tropical ulcer on the face of Africa.

The weather is not so much oppressive as designed to break the body. One moment it is scorching heat, the next driving rain. Cholera, cerebral malaria and dysentery and a host of unknown infections like the one in my eyes, are endemic here. When British soldiers are sent into the Hutu



Sam Kiley, reporting from Goma, assesses the grim conditions awaiting British troops in a beautiful region scarred by satanic violence

camp they will have to wear face masks. If cholera has broken out they will have to steel themselves to the sight of more corpses than they have ever seen before, of living children sitting on dead mothers, of mothers tossing their dead toddlers into ditches like litter.

Our poor soldiers will have a United Nations mandate which, I can safely predict, will be weak and muddled. A real role would be to go into the Hutu camps to separate the Interahamwe — those who kill together — from Hutu civilians. The guilty monsters here are those who, not satisfied with the genocide of Rwandan Tutsis in 1994, now hold their own families hostage and kill anyone who shows an inclination to go home. But British soldiers will be asked by the UN to drive food and fresh water into the camps, to give succour to

Hutu extremists who will live on to kill.

The paras will laugh when they meet the Mai Mai. These tribesmen, in monkey skins and coated with white paint, wave their penises at their enemies and think they are bullet proof. They have joined east Zaire's rebels and have blocked the Hutus of Mugunga camp from fleeing deeper into Zaire.

British soldiers will be impressed by the rebels' front line units. Former members of the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front these are iron disciplined troops who drove the Interahamwe out of Rwanda and are now hunting them down in Zaire.

British officers who meet Hutu leaders will be impressed with their sophistication. Multilingual graduates with a genius for administration do not come across as genocidal madmen. But that is

what many of them are. Our officers will not know whether their own translators have blood on their hands or, by some slim chance, are among the innocent.

"Aren't some of these people killers, boss?" the officers will be asked. "Not all of them. Corporal Jones. Now carry on handing out the biscuits." will be the reply.

Both men will be left asking why. The reason why is that when the Hutus fled Rwanda in 1994 Britain and other leading countries turned a deaf ear to the UN's case for a military force to police the camps and disarm the killers.

Instead £1.5 million was spent fattening them up in refugee camps the size of Eastbourne. The horrors now unfolding were predicted then and are coming to pass.

The misery of millions could have been avoided if the UN had sent soldiers to Rwanda to stop an obvious genocide and later sorted the guilty from the innocent when the Hutus fled to Goma the same year. Military intervention now is a crazy idea. East Zaire's rebels should be left to sort out the refugees.

When they call for volunteers, Corporal Jones, take one step back.

Dickensian gibe

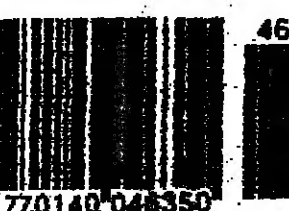
British resistance to an EU directive on hours applies a return to Dickensian times, Jacques Santer said. Page 2

Passing on

Mastermind, the television quiz show that has been running for 25 years, is to end in 1997. Pages 5, 21

British The Times circulation figures for the week ending 11 November 1996: Sunday 11,000; Monday 11,000; Tuesday 11,000; Wednesday 11,000; Thursday 11,000; Friday 11,000; Saturday 11,000. Total 77,000. (The figures for the week ending 4 November 1996 were: Sunday 11,000; Monday 11,000; Tuesday 11,000; Wednesday 11,000; Thursday 11,000; Friday 11,000; Saturday 11,000. Total 77,000.)

The Times on the Internet: <http://www.the-times.co.uk>



TV RADIO 46 47

Major calms fears over freak inflation

By Philip Webster, Political Editor, and Janet Bush

JOHN MAJOR tried to dismiss Conservative worries over inflation yesterday by insisting that an unexpected surge last month, taking the headline rate from 2.1 to 2.7 per cent, was a statistical aberration.

The increase seems certain to put pressure on Kenneth Clarke to increase interest rates again next month.

It also raised questions over the Chancellor's ability to hit his inflation target of 2.5 per cent by the general election, due before mid-May next year.

But, during a Commons clash with Tony Blair, the Prime Minister said that the year-on-year figure for last month looked "artificially high" because in October 1995 there had been an exceptional one-month fall.

He added that over the months ahead the position

would be corrected and assured MPs: "We expect to meet our target."

The Labour leader told Mr Major that on interest rates and inflation Britain was now eleventh out of 15 in Europe. Yesterday's figures put the underlying rate of inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, at 3.3 per cent, a rise from 2.9 per cent.

That is the highest rate for three years and the largest rise in the annual rate for more than six years.

Nevertheless, the City was disappointed and believed the Bank of England will have strong ammunition to try to force the Chancellor into another rate rise at the next monetary policy meeting — on December 11.

Clarke faces clash, page 25
Pennington, page 27
Anatole Kaletsky, page 29

Poll shows most oppose basic tax cut

By Peter Riddell

A MAJORITY of the public, including Tory supporters and the better-off, believe that Kenneth Clarke should not cut the basic rate of income tax in the Budget on November 26, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The poll, undertaken last weekend, suggests that Mr Clarke's campaign to lower expectations about the Budget has worked. His own approval rating is also the highest of his period as Chancellor.

Half the public opposes a 1p reduction in the basic rate in the Budget, while less than two-fifths favour a cut. Opposition to a tax cut is highest among the better-off.

The only groups backing a tax cut in the Budget are those at the bottom end of the income scale.

Renewed faith, page 12

Dons defend their seven-week term

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

CAMBRIDGE dons were accused of putting Tuscany before trigonometry last night, when they decisively rejected a proposal to add a week to the university's famously short summer term.

The university council had recommended an extension of the seven-week term to give students more time for revision before examinations. Opponents argued that academics would lose research time and colleges valuable conference income if the change went ahead.

When the votes were counted after a two-week campaign, little more than half the academic and senior administrative staff had taken part in the ballot. But the verdict was a clear endorsement of the status quo, by 983 votes to 630.

Neil McInnes, the academic affairs officer of the students' union, said: "It is a great

shame that the back-woodsmen in the colleges did not listen to the university authorities. Students desperately need a revision week: on some courses they have less than 48 hours between their last lecture and the first examination."

Cynical students have long insisted that academics were anxious that nothing should delay their summer migration to holiday villas in Tuscany. Cambridge's academic year is 23 weeks, compared with 30 in most British universities.

In urging academics to accept three eight-week terms, the university council said undergraduates had to work under "exceptional pressure" because the year was compressed into a shorter period than at almost any other university.

Education, pages 37-39

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Commander Portillo shows gallantry under fire

Most of us are never more impressive than when we are not trying to impress. Getting on with his job, a Minister is more likely to appear promotable than when noisily angling for another one.

Michael Portillo came to the House yesterday to make a statement on his plans for British military assistance in Zaire. He spoke with quiet authority and answered questions, some very sharp, with conspicuous competence.

His statement, unpretentiously well-written, carried a stature which his party conference bombast never attains.

In response to doubt or inquiry from his own side, Mr Portillo's poise and grasp were notable. His workmanlike performance yesterday reminded us of his talents, and demonstrated how impressive he can be, when not playing leadership games. The less Portillo pushes himself forward, the more he recommends himself.

Michael Stephen (C, Shoreham), confident that the British Tommy could deal with anything the Hutu militia might throw at him, did not quite say that these fuzzywuzzies were sure to scarp at the first whiff of grapeshot.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

but that was the implication. They don't "ave bows n' arrows these days, you know," growled Dennis Skinner (Lab, Bolsover).

Mr Stephen's implied opinion of the Zaire catastrophe (sure of support in the saloon bar of the Royal Coach in Shoreham) was that, having kicked out their colonial masters, Africans had this sort of thing coming. That'll teach 'em. Replying to the former

guards officer, Portillo remembered the Parliamentary courtesies, calling Stephen "My Honourable and Gallant Friend". Canny.

John Townend (C, Bridlington) has the generous charm of a Yorkshire gravel-pit owner. He wanted assurances that the cost of the Zaire operation would be deducted from our regular overseas aid budget rather than the contingency reserve. To Mr

Townend (a director of J Townend & Sons — wine-merchants and hoteliers) a million people dying in the African forest is not a contingency. Catastrophe would be a Budget hike in excise duties on alcohol next week.

At Prime Minister's Questions beforehand, onlookers had noted that John Major seems to be on some kind of a roll. In cold print in *Household* today his words may appear to carry no more confidence than usual; but to take in the atmosphere in the Chamber has been to note that, all week, the Force has been with him. So relaxed was Major in his

replies, that he did something I have never heard him do in six years of PM's Questions: he laughed spontaneously during a reply to Paddy Ashdown. "That's just... *bizarre!*" he said. "Just off the wall!" This delighted Major's side, who observe his idiom travelling steadily forward from the 1960s and now well within sight of the 1980s. Frustrated at the way Labour's arrows seemed to be bouncing off the Prime Minister's tin helmet, Tony Blair took to raising a single, extended forefinger above his head, and waving it like a Hellfire preacher as he rant-

ed. On the Tory side, David Shaw (Dover), raised both his forefingers in mockery, apeing the Labour Leader.

Mr Shaw plays, by turns, the naughtiest boy in the school and the classroom sneak. Both versions infuriate Madam Speaker, in whose eyes he risks becoming the child who has only to speak to get right up Teacher's nose. "This barracking has got to stop," cried an infuriated Betty Boothroyd. The day cannot be far off when Miss Boothroyd abandons her familiar homely and, in the manner of Joyce Grenfell, icily declares: "David! Stop doing that."

Dickensian times evoked in 48-hour week row

Santer turns on Britain with sweatshop era gibe

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITISH resistance to an EU directive on working hours suggests a return to the sweatshops of Dickensian times, Jacques Santer, president of the EU Commission, said yesterday.

However, Mr Santer's literary gibe at Britain's fight against the 48-hour directive was undermined by a report yesterday from his own executive that blamed heavy labour regulation for contributing to Europe's high level of unemployment.

Brussels' anger over London's latest feud with the EU shone through a speech in which Mr Santer made an unusually sharp dig at Britain both over the working time directive and its handling of the BSE affair. The row erupted on Tuesday when the European Court of Justice rejected Britain's challenge to the directive, which enforces a maximum 48-hour week and minimum paid holidays, and the Government promised a campaign for a treaty change to annul its effect.

Mr Santer questioned whether "those who seem to say the less social regulation, the better it is for competitiveness... mean no regulation at all". He added: "We need more flexible labour markets but not a return to the Dickensian

sweat shops of the 19th century."

This week Mr Santer rejected John Major's complaints and told Britain to enact the legislation by the November 23 deadline. His resort to Dickens echoed commentary around Europe this week after a court verdict hailed as a blow for "the European Social model" against the evils of unfettered capitalism. Dickens is a standard reference for Victorian misery on the Continent, where his novels are still taught in schools. Mr Santer

did not cite Britain by name in his speech to an assembly of retailers, but there was no doubt about his target.

The former Luxembourg Prime Minister also talked of "the recent BSE tragedy". He said: "I regret that not all our member states have acted with the goodwill we have — gnawing at political point-scoring instead of admitting their basic responsibility. The European Commission did not create BSE. Nor the BSE crisis."

Europe's quandary over its

attempts to preserve "social protection" for workers was eloquently demonstrated by the publication of an internal Commission report on Europe's struggle to compete with in the world.

The Commission's Social Affairs chief, Padraig Flynn, won a battle last week to have the industry directorate dilute a section of the study paper dealing with the negative effects of Europe's heavily regulated economy. However, the new version still noted that "member states with more regulated labour markets have somewhat lower levels of employment than countries with less regulated markets".

The paper cited Europe's well-known burden of high labour costs compared with its main competitors but it skirted around the working-time argument. Although Europeans worked far shorter hours than Japanese or Americans, this was not "important" in causing inflexibility. Europe's problem stemmed from obstacles to work at night and weekends, which meant that factories were underused and many shops and services were open only during working hours.

Blair warns Chirac, page 12

EMU moves will destroy Tory party, says Tebbit

LORD TEBBIT gave a warning to John Major last night that a move towards monetary union would destroy the Conservative Party.

In his most scathing criticism of the stance on the single currency, the former party chairman told the Prime Minister he must make opposition to it a key election issue to prevent Britain being made into a "provincial assembly" of Europe. "An attempt by a Conservative Government to shackle

this country into a monetary union... would not just split the current Conservative Party. It would destroy it. Tories who 'believe freedom, independence and democracy' would leave to join other parties, he told the right-wing Conservative 2000 group.

Ministers came under cross-party criticism last night after blocking moves for a Commons debate on plans for a single currency.



Brenda Davies, who said that she had received 250 letters of support from the public.

Final warning for teacher who let boy smack bullies

A TEACHER who allowed a five-year-old victim of bullying to smack his six tormentors on the hand with a ruler was given a final written warning at a disciplinary hearing yesterday (Kathryn Knight writes).

Brenda Davies, a teacher for 27 years, was called to explain her actions to Graeme Russell, her head teacher at Tennyson Primary school in Luton, and an official from Bedfordshire County Council. After the hearing Mrs Davies, 48, a mother of two, said she did not regret her actions. "I have had a lot of public

support from all over the country, and even from America. I have got letters telling me not to be bullied, and not to leave the teaching profession. I've got 250 letters at home from people who say what I did was pure common sense."

Mrs Davies, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire, said she had told the headmaster that she had not encouraged corporal punishment but had encouraged the boy, Joe Middleton, to stand up against bullying in line with school policy.

"The children felt safer as a result of my action. I don't

regret what I did, I believe what I did was right." She added that she had not told the boy to slap the others with the ruler: "I gave him the choice, and he took it."

After the incident last month, Mrs Davies wrote a letter to Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, asking for her support. "I am in the dock for trying to put into operation the very things you say you want: order and discipline in the classroom. Empower me and teachers like me to get on with our job," the letter said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Camelot defends £7m held in interest

Camelot, the National Lottery operator, yesterday defended its decision to retain £7 million in interest on prizes, amid continuing criticism of Peter Davis, the lottery regulator. MPs reiterated calls for Camelot's accounts to be thrown open for inspection.

The company said it paid over 48 per cent of lottery funds in prizes last year against a pay-off target of 50.65 per cent. After tax, this left it holding £2.9 million in interest. It argued that it retained interest because it had to pay up out of its own pocket if prize payout exceeded its targets.

Leading article, page 21

Royal assistant

The Prince of Wales has appointed a new personal assistant to arrange his diary of unofficial engagements, including holidays. Phyllida Dore, 53, who is married with three grown-up children, will share her duties with Tiggy Legge-Bourke, 30, the Prince's other personal assistant.

Gun decision

John Major told parents of three Donbas victims during a 40-minute meeting that he will not bow to their demands for a free vote by MPs on a total ban on handguns. He made it clear that Tory MPs would be expected to follow the government line in next week's vote on proposals to ban most handguns.

Artist's progress

William Blake's drawings for *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan were acquired by an anonymous British collector at Sotheby's in London yesterday. The 28 watercolours were bought for an undisclosed price after auction bidding stopped at £210,000. The pre-sale estimate was about £260,000.

Dean's victory

The Dean of Lincoln, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, won another victory yesterday when a judge rejected an attempt by Verity Freestone, the former verger, to sue him for damages. Miss Freestone, 33, brought the civil action against Dr Jackson, 61, after alleging that he had an affair with her.

Club cleared

The National Sporting Club has received apologies from Scotland Yard and the Football Association over suspicions of ticket touting in the run-up to Euro 96. Two people were arrested in a raid on its headquarters but the club said that it had been authorised to sell hospitality packages.

Eyes on history

A pair of Zeiss marine binoculars, a souvenir from the Battle of the River Plate in December 1939, were sold at auction in London for £25,300 to an anonymous buyer. Hans Langsdorff, captain of the *Admiral Graf Spee*, used them to pay for repairs while the pocket battleship was in Montevideo.

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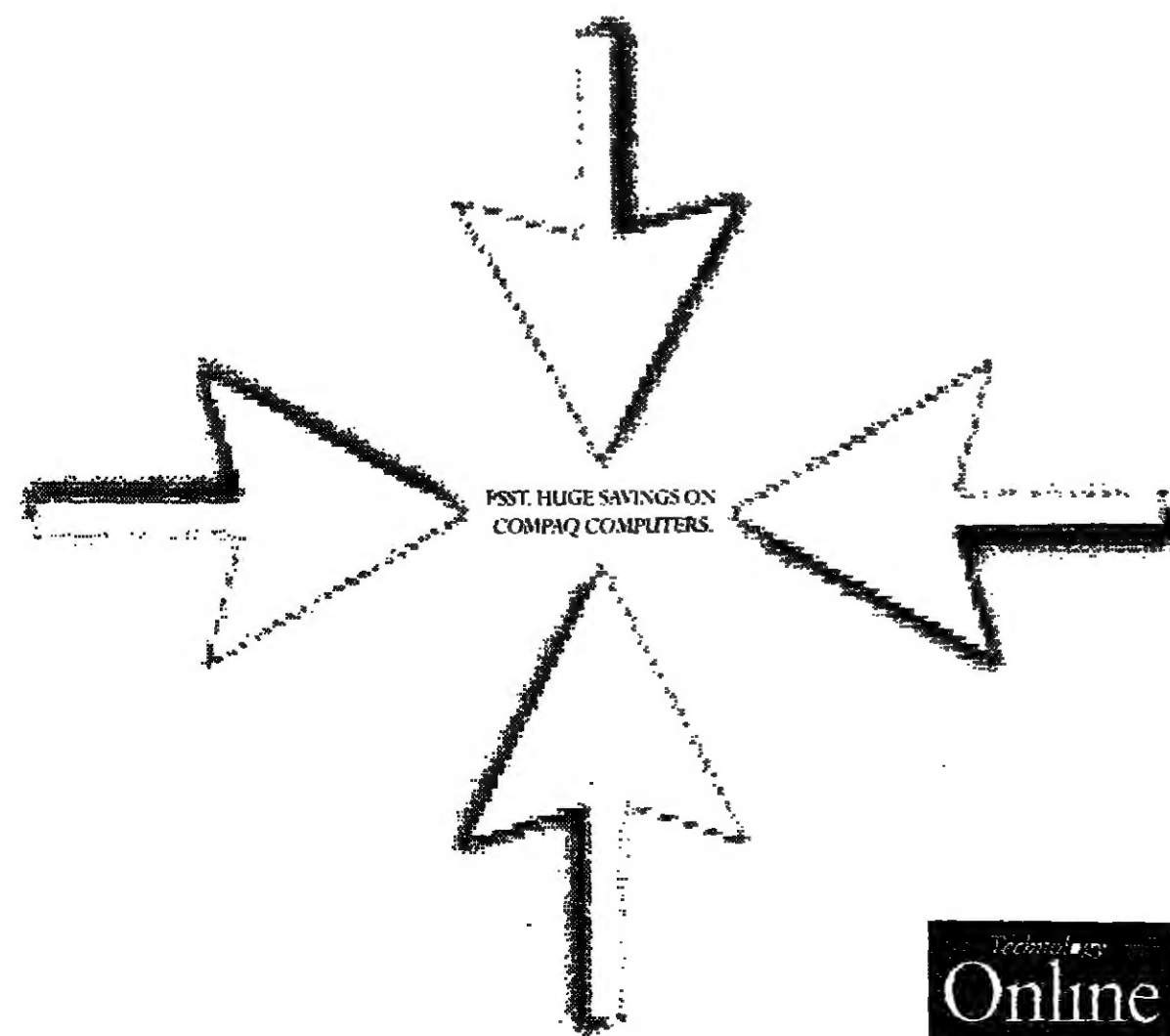


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BBC announces plan to scrap television quiz show that became a national institution

After 25 years, Mastermind has come to the final pass

By CAROL MIDDLEY

TWENTY-FIVE years after it started with a question about a Picasso painting, *Mastermind* is to finish. The television quiz show which fed the voracious British appetite for factual knowledge will close after its next series in 1997.

The presenter Magnus Magnusson, an Icelandic-born archaeology expert who brought an air of scholarly gravitas to the interrogation process, admitted he was disappointed by the BBC's decision that the programme had been "drawing to the end of its natural life".

But he said: "Every good thing has to come to an end, and I would rather it ended with a bang than a whimper. We will be retiring from the scene when we are still on the crest, and I shall treat the last series as a celebration of 25 splendid and enjoyable years."

"It has been a tremendous privilege to be part of a programme which has become legendary in the annals of quiz programmes. I have started and now it is time to finish."

More than 1,400 contestants have sat in the black chair answering questions on specialist subjects ranging from occupational pensions, to famous burial grounds of London, to the Sex Pistols.

Competition has been fierce. One contestant tried to unnerve rivals by completing *The Times* crossword in four minutes; he had memorised the answers. Another bought a replica *Mastermind* chair, ordered his son to operate an Anglepoise lamp and demanded his wife ask him questions every night for a week before his appearance.

When the first programme was broadcast on September 11, 1972, from Liverpool University, accompanied by the title music called *Approaching Menace*, it was described as a quirky, one-off show for insouciant academics. But it quickly became a national institution, paving the way for pub quizzes and board games such as *Trivial Pursuit*. At its height in the mid-1980s, it had



Magnusson, top left, said of his record-breaking run: "I have started so I will finish." Above, taxi driver Fred Housego celebrating his 1980 win with his family

20 million viewers, and it still attracts 6 million.

Magnusson's catchphrases — "I've started so I'll finish," "You passed on three," and "Stop the clock" — became part of the vernacular. Its simple, yet compelling, format of a specialist questions round

followed by a high-pressure general knowledge test became compulsive viewing for many. The first question was on the visual arts. It asked: "Picasso's *Guernica* was a protest about the bombing by Spanish planes of a village. In what year did the event take

place that inspired the painting?" The answer was 1937. Magnusson, 66, said that question would now fall under general knowledge because the idea of general knowledge had "broadened hugely" since 1972. The highest-ever specialist score is 22, achieved by a

helicopter pilot, Joe West, in 1979. He answered questions on Nelson. The highest general knowledge score is also 22, achieved by Jennifer Keaveney in 1986. The highest combined total is 41, scored by Kevin Ashman last year.

Winners of the Calthness glass trophy have ranged from diplomats, a cleric, and teachers to taxi and train drivers. Perhaps the most well-known, London cabbie Fred Housego, became a broadcasting celebrity after his 1980 victory.

Thousands of people have applied to go under the spotlight. Some specialist subjects were considered too obscure: they included orthopaedic bone cement in total hip replacement and routes to anywhere in mainland Britain from Letchworth by road.

By the time Magnusson bows out, he will equal the record for the longest-serving host of a continuously running quiz show on British television, set by the *University Challenge* presenter Bamber Gascoigne. Magnusson is currently writing his memoirs about the show.

The show's creator, BBC producer Bill Wright, died in 1981. The BBC, which owns the copyright to the format, and is now promising to develop new ideas for quiz shows to take the *Mastermind* tradition into the future. There are no plans to sell the format.

Corporation executives paid tribute to Magnusson yesterday. The BBC's controller Michael Jackson said: "His eloquence has become a byword in television."

John Whiston, the head of youth and entertainment features, said: "The success of *Mastermind* is due in large part to Magnus Magnusson's inspirational stewardship. There are very few broadcasters who can match his contribution to the BBC for quality and consistency, let alone longevity, and the BBC owes him a deep debt of gratitude."

The corporation has pledged a special documentary and a spectacular final to mark *Mastermind*'s demise.

Leading article, page 21



THE black leather chair and the spotlight which became the symbols of *Mastermind* were designed to recreate the atmosphere of a wartime interrogation. Bill Wright, a former prisoner of war who devised the show's format, wanted contestants to feel they were being grilled under the fiercest pressure.

Although a duplicate chair is kept in case of emergencies, the same original model has been used since 1972, transported around the country by lorry. The duplicate chair has been used in the opening titles and for sketches on

Secrets of hot-seat

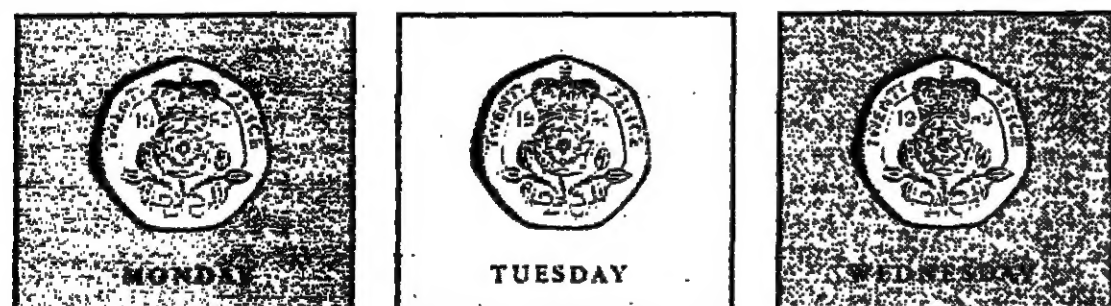
The *Two Ronnies* and *Morecambe and Wise*. Magnus Magnusson has always refused to sit on either chair.

Between filming, the main chair is kept in a secret location in London and guarded closely. In 1979 students at the University of Coleraine "kidnapped" it and demanded a £50 ransom for their Cambodia Relief Fund. After tense negotiations, it was handed

back with no money changing hands.

Although Magnusson has always avoided it, he may be forced to sit in the chair for the first time as part of the programme's finale next year. Under the famous spotlight, he is expected to be asked questions on his 25 years as quizmaster by former contestants in a last act of revenge.

Magnusson suggested last night that the BBC should present him with the chair as a "permanent memento of 25 of the happiest years of my life. I would like to put it out to grass in my study."



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Girl who tried to stop fight was killed by one kick

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A SINGLE kick to the head by a 12-year-old girl was enough to kill Louise Allen, who was set upon as she tried to stop a fight on her way home from a funfair, a court was told yesterday.

The 12-year-old and her friend, 13, stood beside their solicitors in the dock at Nottingham Crown Court and admitted manslaughter after the Crown dropped charges of murder. Richard Nathan, for the prosecution, told Mr Justice Hadden that the more serious charge was being dropped in the light of the post-mortem examination results.

They showed that Louise, 13, from Corby, Northamptonshire, died from the kind of internal bleeding in the head often caused by a blow or a punch. It did not have to be a severe blow, the court was told. Mr Nathan also said that the Crown believed it would be difficult to prove that there was specific intent to kill or cause serious injury when the younger aimed the kick.

Mr Nathan told the court that the fight began shortly before 8pm on Monday, April 27, as a group of girls were returning home to a council estate from a funfair. There was an incident in which

A schoolgirl was recovering in hospital yesterday after being abducted and beaten by a gang of teenage girls over six hours. The girl, 13, suffered a broken wrist, bite marks, severe bruising and injury to her ear during the attack in Gorton, Greater Manchester, on Wednesday. One of the gang rang her parents to say: "We've beaten up your daughter and dumped her in the road."

Louise's friend was challenged to a fight by the younger of the accused. Shortly afterwards, she was sitting astride the friend and striking her.

Louise tried to pull the girl off, the court was told. This was seen by a large number of girls, all roughly the same age. At this point the accused's friend also intervened and, in the next few minutes, Louise received the blow that put her on a life-support machine in Kettering General Hospital. The equipment was switched off the next day.

Mr Nathan said that witness statements suggested that first one girl and then the other kicked Louise in the head. But he said that to establish a charge of murder the Crown would need to

provide specific intent either to kill the victim or to inflict some serious injury. "We are dealing here with a 12-year-old and a 13-year-old and the Crown has been given material that indicates the 13-year-old has the intelligence quotient that puts her in the bottom 12 per cent of the population."

The post-mortem examination report showed only three obvious injuries to Louise, all bruises to the head. The largest of them was seven centimetres by three centimetres. This may have been the cause of her death, said Mr Nathan. The report showed she died of internal bleeding. "The blow need not be severe and it is widely accepted that such an injury often follows moderate force."

Howard Morrison, defending the younger child, said his client accepted that she aimed a kick at Louise as she lay on the ground. She did not think any kick had landed, but accepted that evidence suggested it must have done.

Sally Bennett-Jenkins, defending the older child, said her client was willing to accept that she pulled Louise away from the fight by her hair and that there was a tussle. The judge called for probation reports to be drawn up on both girls and adjourned the hearing until later this month.



Louise Allen died after she was attacked by two girls on her way home from a funfair. Her parents gave permission for her life support machine to be switched off

US-style clerks to help judges clear backlog

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JUDGES are to take on young lawyers as American-style clerks to do their routine work in an attempt to clear the backlog of appeals. The idea has come from Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, who yesterday described the lack of administrative support for judges as absurd.

The Court of Appeal is faced with a rising backlog of unheard appeals. Last year the figure rose from 1,600 in 1994 to 1,800. There was also a backlog for leave to appeal.

The time taken to hear cases is growing. Last year the Court of Appeal said it could hear only 70 per cent of cases within 18 months of the date they were set down for trial. For some kinds of cases, the wait was more than two years.

The scheme, reported in this week's *Law Society Gazette*, will be modelled on programmes in the United States and New Zealand. A dozen young lawyers will be chosen as judicial assistants to work closely with judges. They will be drawn from trainee or recently qualified solicitors and barristers in the last stage of pupillage.

A Court of Appeal judge, Lord Justice Otton, has been appointed to oversee the project, which is expected to be run in the new year. Both the Law Society and Bar will put forward 12 candidates each for

a shortlist. Judges will whittle down the list and conduct interviews.

Yesterday Lord Woolf said that for too long the civil justice system had been the poor relation of criminal and family law and had not had its fair share of resources. At a conference in London organised by the Legal Action Group to discuss his civil justice reforms, Lord Woolf said there were "obvious economies" that could be made in the civil courts. One was to give judges proper administrative support. The traditional High Court judge's clerk had been devised as part of the system long ago, he said. "That person on the whole is the sole resource that a judge has — and it is an unskilled resource. That is absurd."

Under his proposals, judges would take on a more active role as trial managers. With that new role, they would need clerks with skills "much closer to the old solicitors' clerks or legal executives".

Recently the poor facilities for judges trying civil disputes were criticised by judges at the Bar conference. Judge Weeks, QC, said that judges had no "clerical or other assistance and if they want to type a judgment or write a letter they have to do it themselves".

Law, page 40



Professor Muller-Dethlefs and his puzzling subject

It's a black and white case, but not to scientists

By PAUL WILKINSON

SCIENTISTS from across the world have gathered in earnest to consider a conundrum that has baffled the world for decades: why do the bubbles in Guinness go down in the glass when every other drink sends its fizz shooting to the surface?

The symposium at York University examined the Great Guinness Conundrum expounded by Klaus Muller-Dethlefs, Professor of Chemistry at York and a keen Guinness-drinker. He was first drawn to the problem in a bar in New Hampshire after attending a conference on techniques for studying molecules using high-tech lasers.

He and his American colleague, Professor Phil Johnson, mused on why the bubbles behaved the way they did. Professor Muller-Dethlefs, who recently moved from the Munich Technical Institute, said: "We realised it was similar to some of the other problems we're trying to solve."

"We use sensitive lasers to select and track molecules in order to understand the way they react and move. I realised our laser research could be used to pinpoint molecules in liquids, like Guinness, and work out this problem once and for all." But after the debate, a less-serious aspect of

a three-day workshop on laser spectroscopy, as his technique is called, he admitted they had yet to crack the riddle of the stout. "We need to perform more experiments before we can fully explain the Guinness effect," he said.

The basic science is that it is the relation of different fluid dynamics of the liquid and the gas that determines whether bubbles rise or fall. What we presently believe after pilot experiments, is that bubbles sink due to the special features of Guinness, for instance the thickness and texture of the liquid and the nitrogen gas used to pump it, in conjunction with the peculiar swirling movements of the brew and the shape of the glass.

The research could bring a whole new meaning to the famous slogan "Guinness Is Good For You", because it could lead to new medical techniques that might save lives, including a safer alternative to X-rays and a treatment for skin cancer.

Professor Muller-Dethlefs added that laser spectroscopy could replace invasive techniques. "For instance, cells in the human body can be diagnosed, and glucose levels in diabetics' blood can be examined without need for surgery or taking of blood."

Hotline for sinners to hear the call

By AUDREY MAGEE

A BREAKAWAY Irish bishop began a premium telephone line yesterday to hear confessions.

The Tridentine Bishop Michael Cox, 51, wants to raise funds to restore a church in Birr, Co Offaly, and said that he had a "divine revelation" to set up the £1-a-minute line. Callers hear a recorded message offering an interview with the bishop, a healing line, mass dedications, absolution, and a confessional which plays a prayer then tells them to confess after the tone. They are told not to give names.

Bishop Cox, 51, said he will listen to all the recorded confessions: "I give absolution to all those who phone. I will offer mass for them. God



Bishop Cox confessions

will know who they are." The Bishop was ordained in 1978 by the rebel Bishop Lefebvre, whose congregations hold Mass in Latin.

A Catholic Church spokesman said Bishop Cox had no authority to absolve anybody.

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Birthday boy dies jumping for joy

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BOY who liked to use his bunk bed as a trampoline broke his neck when he fell off and crashed into a safety net made by his parents. James Leadbetter was found dead by his mother on the day that the family was to hold his eleventh birthday party.

His bed stood 4ft 2in off the ground and was made from scaffolding poles because he had broken three previous beds using them as trampolines. His father, George, an electronics research engineer from Ambler, Northumberland, said: "He was so excited about his party."

"He was such a live wire, always rushing around. Everyone who knew him would tell how full of energy he was. It is terrible that he died like this."

"It looks as though James had been trying to do back somersaults on his bed and something went horribly wrong. He used to enjoy climbing about in his bedroom, making dens and caves around the furniture."

Church leaders have no special authority to criticise Government, says Archbishop



George Carey: said the Church had a useful role in politics

Don't muddle theology with politics, Carey tells clergy

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of Canterbury issued a pre-election warning to clergy yesterday of the dangers of claiming special authority for their political and economic opinions.

Dr George Carey said that, when a bishop or priest wanted to criticise the Government in public, they should take the trouble first to consult ministers or MPs about the points they wished to make. The Church should not confuse theological and moral pronouncements with politics, Dr Carey said. While Church leaders could contribute usefully to political debate, they possessed no special authority in this area.

Dr Carey's comments indicate his wish to maintain the delicate balance in Church-State relations in the run-up to the general election. While the Archbishop has made similar points before, their reinforcement now contrasts with the recent publication by the Roman Catholic bishops of a document widely regarded as supportive of socialist policies.

Addressing a conference on "the state of the nation" in High Leigh,

Hertfordshire, Dr Carey said: "Where the Church seeks to make pronouncements as an institution, it should not muddle up indiscriminately pronouncements about theological and moral ends and the fruits of pastoral experience, on the one hand, and political or economic opinions about how best to achieve particular effects on the other." To be "prophetic" was not the same as putting forward a one-sided view without consulting the person being criticised.

However, he emphasised that the Church should not stay out of the political arena, especially where clergy could draw on their own pastoral experience. If one was to address contemporary moral concerns, one could not "cherry pick" just one or two issues.

Dr Carey's comments reflect a transformation in the relationship between Church and government since the undeclared war of the 1980s, when Archbishop Runcie, now Lord Runcie, was constantly at odds with the Margaret Thatcher and the Conservatives.

Dr Carey said the Church had

the right to speak about society's moral goals and priorities, and to address the problem of the deprived. "But—and it is a big 'but'—when it comes to the most effective political or economic means of attaining moral goals, the Churches, though they may hope to make a useful contribution, do not speak with special authority," he said. "Archbishops, for example, are not expert in assessing the practical effects of different political or economic options."

One should know "the difference between issues where the Church can claim special authority and the issues where it may hope to make a useful contribution but cannot claim special authority and expertise by virtue of being the Church". He continued: "It is especially behoves church people to avoid apparent self-righteousness when contributing to political debate."

Dr Carey referred directly to one of the biggest battlegrounds of the 1980s, the Faith in the City report, condemned by one Government minister as "Marxist" when it was published in 1985. The report led to

the creation of the Church Urban Fund, which has donated £23 million to more than 1,300 projects in deprived areas since 1987.

Dr Carey defended the report as "deeply appreciated" by many, but admitted that some of the criticisms by those close to the Government of the day "were at least partly justified". The report had had "an Achilles' heel", he said. The recommendations to the nation about how to address the problems that it outlined "raised important questions about the nature of the Church's special authority".

Anglicans from ethnic minorities who migrate to Britain still encounter hostility from white congregations, according to a Church of England report published today. Churchgoers from countries such as China, Pakistan and India have even been advised to go away and set up their own churches, according to *The Passing Winter*. It has also been alleged that church schools have refused to admit children from ethnic minorities.

Letters, page 21

Tesco opens first Internet store

MARKET SHOPPING

TESCO launched Britain's first on-line supermarket yesterday. The company's trial of an Internet service, said to represent "the future of shopping", began in Ealing, west London. Shoppers can log into their computers, tap in their orders from a choice of 20,000 grocery and household items, and sit back to wait for them to be delivered.

The system uses a package called Merchant Server, developed by Microsoft and launched within the past few months. On-line shoppers set a delivery time and pay by store card or credit card. Tesco will deliver for a £5 fee.

Announced promotions this week include:

Badgers: fresh skinless chicken breast fillets £3.99 for 500g, pork and leek sausages £1.24 for 45g, large mushrooms 69p for 22g, low-fat fruit yoghurt 74p for 4 x 125g, white crumpets 20p for eight.

Co-op (CWS): ham on the bone 99p for 1.36kg, frozen roast potatoes £1.39 for 1.36kg, frozen butter sprouts 69p for 907g, all-butter shortbread fingers £1.19 for 500g.

Harrods: champagne pâté with caps £1.99 for 100g, three-bean salad 89p for 100g, smoked Scottish lamb £2.99 for 100g, sea hen caviare £2.99 for 100g.

Island: orange and ginger chicken breasts £2.29 for two, breaded haddock steaks £1.99 for six, cod bites £1.49 for 30, garden peas 79p for 907g.

Marks & Spencer: chicken breast fillets £3.99 for 500g, hake in au poivre £4.99 for 300g, garlic baguette 79p for 155g, treacle tart 99p for 300g, custard 79p for 500g. Morrisons: pork chops £1.29 a lb, beef brisket £1.55 a lb, fillet steak £3.99 a lb, cod fillet £1.99 a lb, whole trout £1.29 a lb, oysters 39p each, Granny Smith apples 29p a lb, Rocha pears 39p a lb.

Sainsbury: sirloin steak £8.95 a kg, chicken breast fillets £7.99 for 1.19kg, frozen pork spare rib chops £2.79 for 907g, cauliflower 39p each, tomatoes 42p a lb, closed-cup mushrooms 99p a lb.

Sainsbury's: fresh whole leg of lamb £4.99 a kg, topside/silver-side £5.79 a kg, pork loin chops £5.49 a kg, chicken drumsticks and thighs £2.69 for five, extra lean sausages 99p for 454g, cauliflower 39p each, dwarf beans 99p for 250g.

Somerfield: fresh pork loin steaks £2.38 a lb, whole salmon £2.17 a lb, boneless beef brisket £1.76 a lb, shoulder of lamb £1.47 a lb, cottage pie 79p for 550g, satsumas 39p a lb, fromage fraise 79p for 6 x 60g.

Tesco: chicken breast fillets £3.99 for 500g, lean braising steak £5.99 a kg, minced lamb £2.09 for 500g, raw peeled tiger prawns £1.29 for 400g, brussels sprouts 35p a lb, white potatoes £1.29 for 10kg, Golden Delicious apples 38p a lb. Waitrose: chicken drumsticks £1.99 for ten, free range eggs 89p for six, King Edward potatoes £1.49 for 5kg, Spartan apples 45p a lb, Comice pears 49p a lb.

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Children's chance of surviving accidents is better than ever

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

SERIOUSLY injured children admitted to hospital after accidents have a dramatically increased chance of surviving because of better trauma care, researchers have found.

A study of 3,200 children and young people treated in 122 hospitals in Britain over the past seven years shows that the chances of surviving a serious accident have improved by 65 per cent. The improvement has been greatest in children under five, whose risk of dying in hospital fell by 21 per cent a year between 1989 and 1995. Among children aged 5 to 14 the death rate fell 13 per cent a year and among 15 to 24 year olds by 17 per cent.

More than two thirds of the victims were involved in a road accident and three quarters suffered a head injury. On admission to hospital, all the victims had suffered major trauma as measured on an injury severity scale.

Ian Roberts, director of the

The number of NHS chief executives paid more than £100,000 has risen from two to 22 in two years. Although the proportion of administrators is growing at the expense of care workers, almost half of trusts cannot meet financial targets, according to the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

child health monitoring unit at the Institute of Child Health, London, who conducted the study, said: "My hunch is that it is less to do with high-tech medical innovations and more likely because patients are getting better basic trauma care."

The poor standard of care given to accident victims had been recognised over the past decade and efforts made to improve it. Dr Roberts said that more attention was now given to standard measures

such as checking that the patient's airway was clear, that they were breathing properly and not losing blood.

"Accident victims being taken into hospital now are more likely to be seen by a senior doctor than they were. More are getting brain scans and doctors are less likely to miss abdominal injuries, maybe because they are more aware of their importance. There has been a recognition that this is an important problem and patients needed a better standard of initial trauma management."

Dr Roberts said that the findings, published in the *British Medical Journal*, cast doubt on government claims that child accident rates were improving. A reduction in accident deaths of 33 per cent for under 15s and 25 per cent for 15 to 24 year olds by 2005 has been set as a target under the Health of the Nation strategy and on present trends these could be exceeded.



The stone being carried from Westminster Abbey yesterday at the start of its return to Scotland

Stone of Destiny goes home in a Land Rover

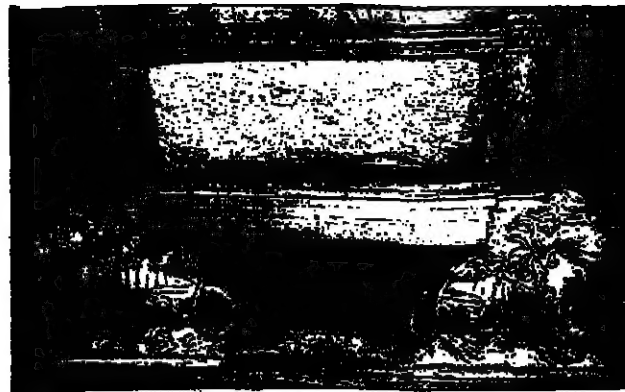
BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE Stone of Destiny, historic symbol of Scottish nationhood, will make its glorious return home today in the back of an Army Land Rover, 700 years after it was seized by Edward I.

The sandstone slab, known as the Stone of Scone, will cross the border at the town of Coldstream at 10am.

Security will be tight as the relic, Coronation stone of British monarchs for centuries, is escorted by the Coldstream Guards on to Coldstream Bridge. It will be handed over to the 1st Battalion The Royal Scots and the 1st Battalion The King's Own Scottish Borderers, before being piped over the Tweed and led in procession through the town to a reception where Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, will welcome the stone home. It will then be escorted on to Edinburgh. Yesterday the stone began its journey north after leaving Westminster Abbey at 7am in a blue wooden box with a wax seal.

The last time the stone left London, it lay in two in the boot of a Ford Anglia driven by a Scottish nationalist student, Kay Matheson, now 67, who was part of a gang who snatched it from under the Abbey's Coronation chair on Christmas Eve, 1980.



The stone was in Westminster Abbey for 700 years

This time the mode of transport was slightly more dignified. Lothian and Borders Police refused to disclose any information about the route for security reasons. The stone was guarded by three police officers, a white van and two Range Rovers. Last night it was under army guard at Ouston camp, a base of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Private David McCulloch, 24, from Stranraer, will chauffeur the stone to Edinburgh. At the laboratory of Historic Scotland, the heritage agency, experts will decide if restoration is needed.

The first chance the public will have of seeing the stone will be on St Andrew's Day, November 30, when it leaves Holyroodhouse to begin the journey up the Royal Mile to Edinburgh Castle where it will be on public view in the Crown Room the next day.

There will be a service at St Giles Cathedral and a ceremony at the castle to be attended by the Duke of York on behalf of the Queen.

Letters, page 21

Blood clot killed student in her sleep

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A STUDENT who died in her sleep in her first week at Oxford University suffered a rare lung condition, an inquest was told yesterday.

Rachel Steer, 18, died from a heart attack caused by a blood clot in her lungs. Sanjiv Manek, the pathologist, said: "Usually there are reasons for this condition but there are cases where you cannot find any cause. It is a natural phenomenon."

"Usually it does occur in young females but it is an extremely rare condition. I think she died within two or three hours of going to bed."

Miss Steer, from Surbiton, Surrey, was a Classics student at St Hilda's. She was found on October 21, two days after her death, after she failed to attend a lecture and the alarm was raised by a friend.

Recording a verdict of death by natural causes, Nicholas Gardiner, the Oxfordshire Coroner, said: "This is a very rare condition, one you can't do anything in particular to prevent, except that a healthy lifestyle and regular exercise would help."

Miss Steer's parents, Clifford and Christine, did not attend the inquest.

Stable girl provoked me, accused tells court

BY JOANNA BALE

A FARMWORKER claimed yesterday that a stable girl hit him with an iron bar before he killed her with it in a hail of blows. Stephen Webber told a jury that he had loved Jessie Hurlstone, 27, but killed her after she "cut him dead" when she was with her friends and appeared ungrateful for presents he had bought.

Mr Webber, 39, pleaded not guilty at Exeter Crown Court to murdering Miss Hurlstone in October last year at Hawsen Stables near Buckfastleigh, Devon, owned by the National Hunt trainer Richard Frost.

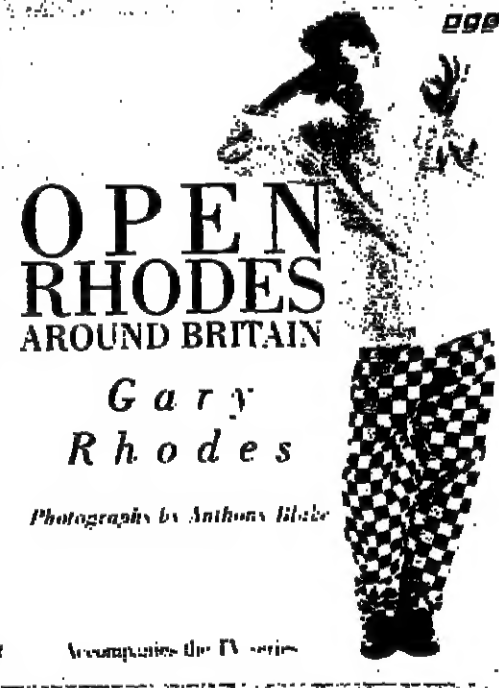
Mr Webber said that he had known Miss Hurlstone for about three years and had left his bungalow near Buckfastleigh to her in his will. He had been happy for it to be a platonic relationship, although he admitted feeling jealous when he saw her kissing a boyfriend.

Mr Webber said that he visited Miss Hurlstone at her caravan to discuss claims that he had wanted to get her into trouble over housing benefit. "The bar was just to frighten the girl. I do not know what made me do what I did," he told police. The trial continues.

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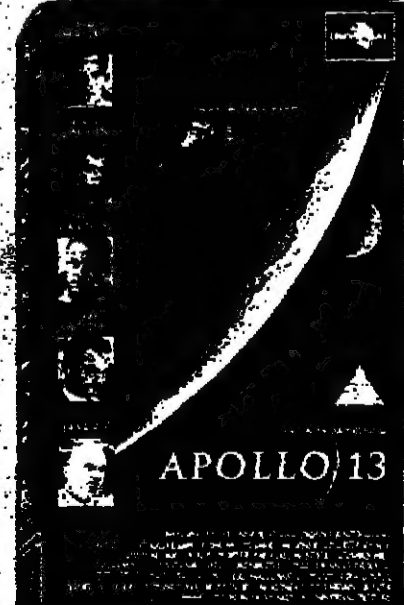
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Wealth gap closes as poorest escape from dire poverty

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE growth in inequality that accelerated during the 1980s has been reversed, with many of Britain's poorest people escaping from dire poverty, according to official statistics.

The main cause for the narrowing gap is that top salaries, in spite of the occasional "fat cat" scandal, are increasing no faster than lower wages. Higher taxes and more generous welfare benefits for people in work have helped to reduce inequality.

The debate about the poor getting poorer will be strongly affected by the first official analysis of what Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, likes to call "income mobility". Ministers have been embarrassed by surveys that have repeatedly shown that the gap between the poorest and richest grew rapidly during the 1980s.

Mr Lilley has been keen to find evidence that the poor are not a permanent mass of hopeless cases doomed to remain destitute. He believes the poorest are a constantly changing group of individuals who have fallen on hard times but will soon be able to pull themselves back up.

Yesterday's figures, from the Government Statistical

Service, looked at the poorest 10 per cent in 1991: those living on less than £119 a week. They show that 60 per cent rose above the bottom tenth by 1994 but not far: most were still in the lowest third.

Although there was evidence of people rising from extreme poverty and then falling back, 60 per cent managed to stay up. During those three years the average weekly income of the poorest tenth rose from £101 to £150.

People who have less hope for a long time have less hope of escaping poverty. Those newly fallen into the bottom income level tended to have been just above it, rather than plummeting spectacularly from the richer groups.

The increase of lone parents means the proportion of children living in a home where no one earns anything has risen from 18 per cent in 1974 to 31 per cent in 1993-4. The rise in all households where no adult of working age receives a wage rose from 8 to 17 per cent. The combined effect of the recession and owning property has doubled the number of mortgage payers in the bottom tenth from 5 to 10 per cent.

In the past year there have been modest increases in in-

come across the board, but the poorest have fared better than the richest. Causes include a fall in unemployment by 950,000 since the peak in December 1992, lower mortgage rates and an increase in income for pensioners.

The lives of the poor have improved since 1979 through mass ownership of consumer goods. Among the bottom fifth of the population, 90 per cent have a washing machine, 85 per cent a freezer and 75 per cent central heating.

The biggest winners since the Conservatives came to power have been pensioners and working people, whose incomes have increased by more than the average 37 per cent in real terms, while the income of the unemployed lagged. The increase in private pensions explains a significant fall in the proportion of elderly people in poverty.

Andrew Mitchell, a Social Security Minister, said: "The trend of increasing inequality in the 1980s has not continued. I am pleased to see signs that even the least well off are continuing to improve their living standards."

Households Below Average Income (Stationery Office; £30)

Sir John Soane's museum will use £738,000 for expansion



Soane: he died in 1837

Lottery grant for hidden treasure

By MARCUS BINNEY

A MUSEUM that has 9,000 Robert Adam drawings sitting in a cupboard has been given a £738,000 Heritage Lottery Fund grant to expand its premises.

Sir John Soane's museum at 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, Holborn, London, is full of more surprises than any other building in London. With trick mirrors, hanging domes and numerous tiny vestibules filled with antiques, busts, paintings and



The interior of the museum in Holborn, where 9,000 drawings by Robert Adam are stored in a cupboard

models. Little known a decade ago, it is now on the must-see list for many tourists, attracting 76,000 visitors last year.

Soane bequeathed his house and collection to the nation by an Act of Parliament in 1833 which specified that everything should remain as it was on the day he died. "All the pictures are hanging on the same nails. What had been a museum in Soane's lifetime retains the atmosphere of a private house today," said Christo-

pher Woodward, the assistant curator.

Soane had lived with his family in a house at number 12, which he built in 1792, adding on his museum at number 13 in 1812. Then in 1823 he added the third house at number 14 to make a matching composition. Soon afterwards he sold number 14, which is now, like its neighbours, a Grade I listed building, to a solicitor who had promised to keep it as a family house but promptly turned it into an

office. Mr Woodward said: "The house was perfect in every detail when he sold it. It still has all the quirky details like starfish ceilings." The Soane museum tried to acquire number 14 in the 1960s, but was refused a grant by the Treasury. However, the Heritage Lottery Fund has given the application fast-track treatment, enabling the museum to meet a four-month deadline set by the current owners, an insurance company, to buy the property. Margaret Rich-

ardson, the curator, said: "We will create a Robert Adam study centre and facilities for children to study architecture."

"Soane was the first and greatest professor of architecture in England. The models, drawings and diagrams he made for his Royal Academy students are so clear and simple that they can be used today. Number 14 will enable us to reopen the upper floors of the museum, which have been used as offices."

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EXCLUSIVE

Jumping 'toughens the bones'

By OLIVER AUGUST

A theory that jumping up and down strengthens bones was supported by research in Finland reported in *The Lancet*. The bone mass density of women aged 35 to 45 who did special training rose by between 1.4 and 3.7 per cent.

Raid on gypsies

A loaded pistol, four shotguns and drugs were seized by armed police during a raid on a gypsy camp in Streatham Vale, south London. Nine men and two women were being questioned yesterday.

Payout to MP

Anthony Steen, Tory MP for South Hants, accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages over an article in the *Sunday Express* which said he had behaved like a lager lout on a trip to Cyprus.

Flashgun rescue

James Graham, 56, from Calgary, Canada, was rescued from a hill on South Uist in the Western Isles after alerting rescuers with a flashgun. He had set off to take photographs and became bogged down.

Pay as you drive

Bristol City Council is seeking 250 volunteers next month to test a £1 million road-toll project funded by the European Commission. A card on their windscreen will register on scanners when they use the A4.

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Hospital agrees restricted work for ear specialist

HIV-positive surgeon is allowed to operate again

By Shirley English

A SURGEON who is HIV-positive yesterday became the first one known to have the virus to be allowed to resume his work in the operating theatre.

Health managers in Glasgow announced that Professor George Browning, an ear, nose and throat specialist, would be allowed to do a restricted number of "no risk" operations. Patients will be told of his condition and asked whether they wish to receive treatment from him.

They will be under no pressure to consent and their decision will not affect their position on waiting lists. Professor Browning, 55, a father of three, based at Glasgow's Gartnavel General Hospital, stopped operating in December 1994 after being diagnosed HIV-positive.

His work has since been restricted to lectures and outpatient clinics. He made his condition public after a newspaper named the wrong sur-

geon as being infected. Yesterday he said that he welcomed his employers' decision and did not find the restrictions onerous. Although other surgeons may be operating with the virus, he was the first to be known about publicly.

He hoped his situation would encourage other infected medical staff to come forward, not least to get treatment. "Unfortunately, I know of other healthcare workers who are infected and I would have thought this decision today would encourage them not to hide the fact, but to come forward," he said.

Professor Browning, who described himself as being in "superb health", is expected to resume surgical work in his specialism of otology, highly complex middle-ear operations, before Christmas. He will do up to 75 operations a year, about 80 per cent of his previous workload.

His work will be monitored and his health checked each

month. He will not be allowed to do any nose or throat surgery, or any operations where there is extensive use of scalpels or manual manipulation, or where there could be a risk of complications. His work will be carried out using the "no-touch" technique, with long-handled microsurgical instruments which probe about 3cm into the ear canal. Any sharp tools will be passed back to theatre staff indirectly, using a dish or tray.

Professor Browning said: "It has been an educational past two years. There have been times when one really has wondered if all the fuss is really worth it and the easy option is to just forget it."

"One of the things that has actually kept me going, and has been extremely influential on the board coming to this decision, has been the very obvious patient support. If there had not been patient support then I don't know if they [the board] would have

reached this decision." He said that, over the past nine months, when he had raised the question with patients, he had been "absolutely delighted" by their response. "The vast majority have been only too keen that I operate on them," he said. But he acknowledged that some might have objections in the future.

The decision to allow Professor Browning to resume surgery was announced by West Glasgow Hospitals University NHS Trust. The trust board was advised by the Department of Health's Advisory Panel for healthcare workers infected with bloodborne viruses.

Derek Mason, the board chairman, said it had reached a unanimous decision that Professor Browning resuming his work would present "no measurable risk" to patients or staff. He said that the decision was "significant" for other trusts who found themselves in a similar situation.



Professor Browning hopes move will help other infected staff to come forward

Clerk fired for keeping his wife out of court

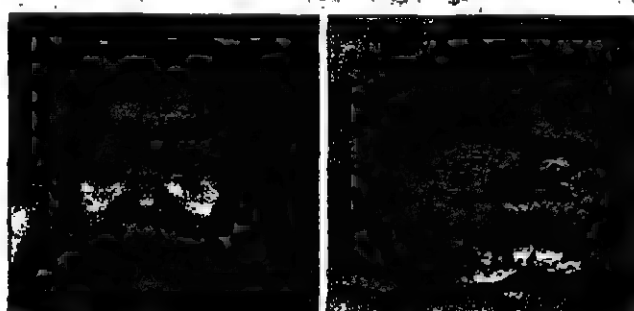
27

A COURT official used his own sense of justice when his wife was summoned over a £30 fine on a car she no longer owned. Gavin Wilson had the case adjourned twice.

His decision cost him his £25,000-a-year job as magistrate's clerk at Pontypridd, Rhondda. Yesterday an industrial tribunal rejected his claim of unfair dismissal, ruling that he had been guilty of gross misconduct.

The tribunal at Cardiff was told that Susan Wilson was wrongly sent a number of parking tickets for a Ford Orion in the weeks after she sold it to a photographer, Paul Griffiths. He agreed to pay, but was abroad at the time of the summons for not paying a £30 fine. He wrote to the tribunal saying: "I let Mrs Wilson down."

Mr Wilson, 41, said: "I adjourned the case on the basis that Mr Griffiths paid previous fines. I was hoping justice would be done. I adjourned it a second time because my wife was ill and I wanted to save her the embarrassment of being arrested."



Farha Tul-sin and a packet of water bombs

Call for ban on lethal child's toy

By Paul Wilkinson

A TINY child's toy was described as lethal by doctors yesterday after a six-month-old baby died and a seven-year-old girl was left on a life support machine.

The children accidentally swallowed the water bomb, a 2in rubber balloon available for a few pence at scores of corner shops nationwide. They are intended to be filled with water then thrown.

Doctors at Bradford Royal Infirmary decided to speak out after dealing with two incidents in the past fortnight. In the first, on October 30, Farha Tul-sin, six months, died after stuffing the balloon in her mouth at her home in Lidgett Green, Bradford. A verdict of accidental death was recorded at her inquest. Her father, Tariq, has called for the toy to be banned from sale. In the second incident, last

Sunday, the seven-year-old girl inhaled the balloon after apparently trying to blow it up. She is critically ill in the hospital's intensive care unit.

Dr Sharon, head of the accident and emergency department, said: "If these water bombs are accidentally inhaled, they are exactly the right size to 'sit' on a child's vocal chords and obstruct the windpipe. They have the shape, look and texture of a mini-balloon."

West Yorkshire's Trading Standards Service has begun an investigation. Paul Cooper, its head of fair trading and safety, said the product was widely available. Packs of 20 sold for as little as 25p. He declined to identify the water bomb importers as the inquiry had just been launched and, so far, only one importer had been traced.

No wonder Canada's National Colours are Red and White.

Last spring the ice flows ran red with the blood of over 268,000 seals. Now government advisors and politicians hope to increase the quota, 400,000 seals could be butchered next year. And of these, roughly three quarters will be baby seal pups, just days or weeks old. They'll be shot or clubbed to death. And those seals that escape wounded will die an agonizing death beneath the ice. These are the "lucky" ones. Recent evidence indicates some will be skinned alive for their coats.

Key decisions will be made in the next few weeks so your help is vital.

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Blair warns Chirac against more EU workplace rules

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR will warn Jacques Chirac today that a Labour government would resist any further directives from Brussels on employment conditions.

Although he will tell the French president at a meeting in Paris this morning that he backs the maximum 48-hour working week, he will argue that "there is no appetite among other countries" for a series of further regulations.

The Labour leader's visit will coincide with planned strikes on the Paris metro, the railways, the French press and banks. Most of the industrial action has been prompted by attempts to meet the economic convergence criteria for a single currency.

Mr Blair's position is in line with Gordon Brown's comments this week, when he reassured businessmen that Labour would veto any extension of majority voting on the European Union's social chapter. It also reflects Labour's tough stand on the 48-hour week which may have found favour with the public.

Before he left for Paris yesterday, Mr Blair said that the row over the working time directive on the 48-hour week had been hugely overblown.

"Any civilised country would have such measures regardless of whether it had been agreed by member states. Nor does it harbour any great new raft of legislation."

"There is no appetite among other countries for a vast amount of new labour regulations. There must be minimum standards at work but new Labour's case for a new global economy needs a different approach to the labour market."

Mr Blair is bound to come under pressure from Mr Chirac to spell out Labour's position on a single currency after reports that a Labour government might not join the first wave of countries. Both France and Germany were hoping that a Labour government would support their attempts to adopt the euro in 1999. But Labour leadership sources have recently argued that this may not be practical.

Yesterday Mr Blair maintained Labour's policy line. He said that a single currency could be of benefit but there were still obstacles. "A decision will be made in our economic interests with the consent of the people, either through a referendum or through an election."

Asked specifically about en-

tering the first wave, he said: "This is feasible but there are obstacles."

Mr Blair also tried to exploit the Tory party infighting over Europe. He said that Mr Major's determination to declare war on Europe over the 48-hour week had opened the "in or out" debate in the Tory party he said. Senior backbenchers were now calling for the Treaty of Rome to be renegotiated with Britain out of Europe altogether.

"That would be a disaster for investment and jobs and the people know it," Mr Blair said, but he warned of the dangers of Mr Major's obstructive tactics. "There is no point in being in and permanently paralysed by seeking isolation as a badge of honour. If it is right to be isolated from time to time, fine. I will be isolated — but it is folly to pursue this as a central objective."

Mr Blair will meet both Mr Chirac and Alain Juppé, the prime minister, for discussions on Zaire, the inter-governmental conference on Europe and the beef crisis. He will also address businessmen at a lunch today, where he will emphasise the need for caution on extra labour market regulations.

Poll shows renewed faith in Clarke

By PETER RIDDELL

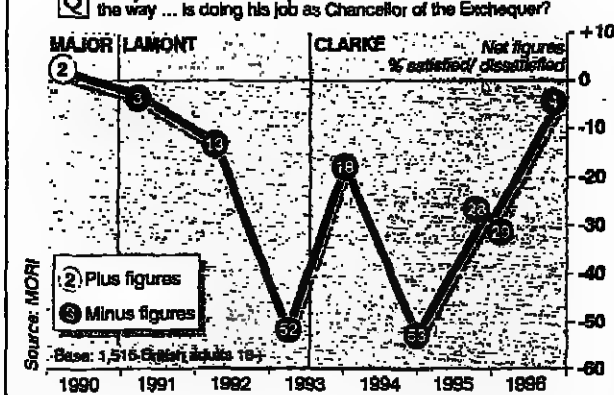
KENNETH CLARKE has substantially improved his personal rating with the public over the past year, to the highest level for a Chancellor since the last general election, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

During his first two years as Chancellor, when taxes were being raised, Mr Clarke was very unpopular. In December 1994, the net balance of those satisfied less dissatisfied with the way he was doing his job was minus 53 points. By the end of last year, it was minus 29 points and it has now improved to minus 4 points. This is the best rating for any Chancellor since March 1991.

Satisfaction with Mr Clarke's performance rises as you move up the social and income scale. His rating is plus 12 points among the

SATISFACTION WITH THE CHANCELLOR

Q Can you tell me whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way... is doing his job as Chancellor of the Exchequer?



middle classes and minus 20 points among the working classes. There is also a marked gender gap, possibly in part reflecting Mr Clarke's "blokish" beer-drinking image. His rating is plus 3 points among men, while, by contrast, John Major's rating among men is minus 17.

There has also been a marked shift in opinion about the Government's handling of the economy. According to a question asked by MORI every year about the time of the Budget, the balance of those agreeing, less disagreeing, that in the long term the Government's policies will improve the state of the econ-

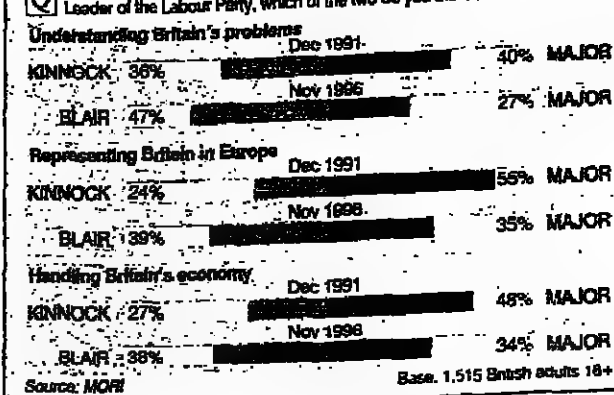
omy was minus 39 points at the end of last year, but has since narrowed to minus 18 points. This is the most favourable rating since March 1992, just before the last election.

Whereas the net balance on this question was minus 18 points for the public as a whole, key swing groups of voters were more pessimistic about the impact of government policy on the economy in the long term — minus 36 points among those who have deserted the Tories since the last election and minus 63 points among those who have swung behind Labour since 1992.

The poll also shows how

THE BLAIR EFFECT

Q Now, thinking about John Major, the Prime Minister, and Tony Blair, the Leader of the Labour Party, which of the two do you think would be best at...?



Tony Blair has reversed the lead which John Major enjoyed over Neil Kinnock in late 1991, before the last election, on understanding Britain's problems, representing Britain in Europe and handling the economy.

In December 1991, Mr Major had a lead on all three issues. Mr Blair does. This reflects two interlinked changes: first, a decline in the number thinking that Mr Major would handle these issues best, and second, an increase in the proportion thinking Mr Blair would be best as compared with Mr Kinnock five years ago.

Consequently, whereas in

December 1991 Mr Major had a lead of four points over Mr Kinnock on understanding Britain's problems, now Mr Blair has a 20-point lead. The biggest shift has been on representing Britain in Europe, where Mr Major's 31-point lead five years ago has been turned into a four-point lead for Mr Blair. On handling the economy, Mr Major's 21-point lead has been turned into a four-point lead for Mr Blair. There have been above-average shifts among the middle classes and 18 to 34-year-olds.

MORI interviewed 1,515 adults at 152 sampling points from November 8 to 11.

Tories must play the prosperity card

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

The Tories are recovering in the polls, but the pick-up is patchy and gradual. Recent polls have been sending apparently contradictory signals, but the underlying trends are clear — and offer only slim hopes for the Tories.

The Labour lead has been between 15 and 28 points —

partly because of differences in the way the polls are compiled. There has been controversy over the sampling base: whether too many Labour supporters were included in the last MORI poll two weeks ago when the party was shown

at 56 per cent, against 50 per cent now. When people were asked how they had voted in 1992, 37 per cent said Labour at the end of October, against 30 per cent for the Tories. When Labour is doing well, some people forget their past

vote, particularly if they backed the Liberal Democrats, so there tends to be a rise in mentions of Labour when its current support rises. Moreover, the high Labour rating two weeks ago was in line with some other polls at the time. It is possible that the earlier polls were taken at a time of particular Labour strength, whereas the latest poll has come at a time of Tory strength. This might exaggerate the change between polls.

However, looking over a longer period, which should iron out short-term fluctuations, there has been a slow rise in Tory support and a slight decline in Labour's rating — but only of about one percentage point a quarter. This still leaves a huge gap for the Tories to bridge by spring. Recent polls point to a squeeze in the national level of Liberal Democrat support which could affect its regional hopes.

There are a few favourable signs for the Tories, such as a recovery in the MORI economic optimism index since the spring and a lessening in public hostility towards the Government and John Major. But the change is only by comparison with previous record low ratings.

The much discussed "feel-good" factor is helping the Tories but it has not yet offset other less favourable influences. There has been a reversal in the public's ratings of the party leaders compared with before the last election. While Mr Major was ahead of Neil Kinnock on every key

measure in 1991, Mr Blair is ahead now. The Tories as a party are also seen as extreme, out-of-touch and divided, just as Labour was in the past.

It is significant that health and education are now rated as the two most important issues facing Britain today for all groups except the unskilled working class (for whom unemployment remains top). The number of mentions of education has risen from 30 per cent at the beginning of the year to 42 per cent now. The NHS and education are issues where Labour is far ahead of the Tories as the party having the best policies.

The best line for the Tories is to plug away at the improvement in the economy and to underline worries about what Labour might do. While voters are impressed by Mr Blair personally, they remain uncertain about his policies: in particular, whether he would be able to avoid an increase in taxes. However, as today's poll suggests, voters are not demanding cuts in income tax.

The issue is rather which party would generate prosperity. Swing voters — those who have switched away from the Tories since 1992 and those who have started backing Labour — are more optimistic about the economy than people generally. However, both groups are much more pessimistic than the public as a whole about whether in the long term the Government's policies will improve the state of Britain's economy. The Tories have to change this view by next spring if they are to have a hope of staying in office.

PETER RIDDELL

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3433/15/1/96

Patten asks Kohl to relax entry for colony's citizens

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday held an astonishing two-hour conversation with Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, in an attempt to persuade Bonn to give Hong Kong citizens visa-free access to Germany.

The meeting, which came on the eve of a trip to China by President Herzog, was something of a triumph for Mr Patten, who is touring European capitals to promote the cause of Hong Kong. Scheduled for 45 minutes, the talks ran on for two-and-a-half hours — an almost unprecedented event — and the Chancellor earlier reportedly showed lively interest in the details of the handover of the British colony next year.

"It was a good, cordial, intelligent meeting and the Chancellor showed himself to be both knowledgeable and interested in China and Hong Kong," said Mr Patten, who went on to see Klaus Kinkel, the Foreign Minister.

At stake is the freedom of movement of about three million people who will hold so-called special administrative region passports from July. Britain has guaranteed such passport-holders visa-free entry but is keen that they secure similar privileges throughout the European Union.

Freedom of travel is regarded as the key not only to Hong

Kong's prosperity, but also to its future position within China. Germany has a visa regime, albeit quite a liberal one, for people from British dependencies and it is clear that Bonn will not be able to scrap visas entirely for travellers from Hong Kong.

However, the key distinction will be between Hong Kong and Chinese passport-holders. German officials seem to think this will be possible.

The hope is that the Germans will be able to persuade France, visited by Mr Patten earlier this week, and other EU states of the need for a liberal or even visa-free policy towards Hong Kong. However, Mr Patten yesterday emphasised that the decision should be up to individual member states.

Germany, as Europe's biggest trading partner with China, seems to stumble from one controversy to another in its relations with Peking. The central question is how far human rights abuses should influence trade. The Chancellor came in for domestic criticism when he visited a Chinese Army barracks and other issues have dogged relations for the past 18 months.

Only after a recent visit to Peking by Herr Kinkel were relations declared to be on a "normal footing" again.

This sensitivity also affects Bonn's attitudes towards Hong Kong and may make the Germans rather hesitant lobbyists for the colony.

Mr Patten spent time explaining how the Chinese Army would be involved in the transition period. He said only a small number of unarmed soldiers would be allowed to prepare barracks buildings before the handover.

Deportations change Germany's lower house of parliament passed a draft law making it easier to deport foreigners convicted of violence. It was prompted by clashes between militant Kurds and police earlier this year, in which hundreds of people were injured. (Reuter)

Fireworks blast kills children

Hong Kong: An explosion at an illegal fireworks factory in China killed 13 children and injured 16, the China News Service reported yesterday.

The children, aged between 7 and 14, were in a locked courtyard in Taupeng village in Anhui province, employed by the factory during their vacation to cut costs. Instead of rescuing the children, co-owner Liu Ya salvaged his property and fled but was arrested four days later, the report said. (AP)



Chinese hostesses in traditional dresses watch a multiscreen telecast of Lady Thatcher addressing the international conference in Peking yesterday

Thatcher attacks China's treatment of activists

FROM JONATHAN MURPHY IN HONG KONG

BARONESS THATCHER told China's leaders yesterday in Peking that their persecution of dissidents had shocked the world.

Her rebuke came as China's supreme court rejected an appeal against the death penalty for bribery imposed last week on Zhou Beifang, the son of a close friend of Deng Xiaoping, the paramount leader.

In the closing speech to an international conference called "China and the World: Partners in Economic Progress Towards the 21st Century,"

sponsored by the International Herald Tribune, Lady Thatcher said: "The recent harsh sentences imposed on Mr Wei and Mr Wang have caused dismay in the wider world." She was referring to Wei Jingsheng, jailed for 14 years in 1995 after being freed briefly on completion of a 14-year sentence, and to Wang Dan, jailed two weeks ago for 11 years. He had previously served almost four years.

Wei first came to international attention in 1979 at Peking's Democracy Wall, where he condemned Mr Deng as little better than Mao Tse-tung. Wang, a student leader during the Tiananmen Square uprising, was

at the top of China's most-wanted list after the 1989 crackdown. Neither man was willing to keep silent after their release and both were reconfined for counter-revolution and sedition.

The rejection of the appeal by Zhou means he will have to serve his two-year suspended jail sentence and face the possibility of execution in 1998 unless he has shown what the authorities consider a good attitude. Zhou is the son of Zhou Guanwu, the former chairman of the giant Shougang Iron and Steel complex in Peking, whose retirement almost two years ago preceded only by days the arrest of his son on huge bribery charges. The

elder Mr Zhou had been an army comrade of Mr Deng before 1949, and his son became a senior executive in Shougang's Hong Kong arm.

The appeal court disclosed that the younger Zhou had avoided immediate execution by repaying \$1.2 million (£812,500) in bribes. It said he had given \$144,000 in bribes to obtain permission for his wife and daughter to move to Hong Kong.

Peking: Judges will hear Wang's appeal against his 11-year sentence today, although his mother has no hope of a reprieve. Officials of the higher level people's court notified his family yesterday about the hearing. (Reuter)

Potholers lay claim to cave art

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

TWO years after they came across a fabulous array of prehistoric wall paintings in a cave in southern France, three potholers are locked in a bitter legal battle with the Government over the rights to the discovery.

In December 1994 the three cavers, led by Jean-Marie Chauvet, an official of the French archaeological service, penetrated 1,600ft into a system of underground caves near Arignac in the Ardèche valley and came across one of the world's greatest collections of Ice Age art.

Along the walls were more than 300 images of horses, rhinoceroses, lions, hyenas, panthers and other animals, probably painted more than 20,000 years ago.

The potholers filmed and photographed the find and then dutifully reported their discovery to the authorities. The news of the prehistoric art in "Chauvet cave" was released a few weeks later, and



Paintings of buffaloes and horses in the "Chauvet cave"

the beautifully executed paintings, considered comparable to those at Lascaux in the Dordogne, were reproduced around the world.

The potholers now say the French Government has fraudulently laid claim to the discovery while the Culture Ministry has made about £1 million by selling the rights to their photographs and film.

The three owners of the land above the cave are also demanding that the state pay them £70 million (£9 million)

in compensation for expropriating the site. So far, the Government has offered just £8,000 to each of the owners.

The discovery of the cave was announced in the midst of a presidential election and a lawyer for the potholers claims the Government "wanted to take credit for this exploit at any price".

The Culture Ministry claimed copyright to the nine-minute film made by the discoverers, and then sold on rights to television stations at

Fr3,000 a minute, while their collection of photographs was offered for reproduction at Fr14,000.

"We had no intention of making a profit out of our discovery, but after the way the Government has failed to keep its word and made money out of us, we decided to defend ourselves," M Chauvet and his two companions told *Le Figaro* yesterday.

The issue of rights ownership, now the subject of a legal dispute, hinges on whether or not M Chauvet was acting on behalf of the Government when he came across the cave.

The keen potholer was at that time employed by the Culture Ministry as a "custodian" of the Ardèche caves, but he claims the discovery was made in his own time, as part of a personal hobby and had nothing to do with the Government.

The Government has produced a document purporting to show that M Chauvet was granted an official "temporary prospecting licence" to explore and catalogue the caves.

Krenz to give up passport

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN BERLIN

Berlin: A court here issued arrest warrants yesterday against Egon Krenz, East Germany's last hardline Communist leader, and three of his deputies to stop them leaving the country.

The court, trying the four men for manslaughter, upheld the request by prosecutors who said a higher court ruling that East German leaders could be jailed for border killings made it more likely they would flee. The four must surrender their passports. (Reuter)

Delhi airport radar 'outdated'

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE investigations into Tuesday's mid-air plane collision near Delhi are focusing on whether ageing radars and outdated safety procedures contributed to the world's third worst aviation disaster. Sophisticated air traffic control systems were to have been installed at the city's international airport in 1993, but much of the equipment has been gathering dust in an airport building.

Air traffic controllers use manual techniques and 20-year-old radars to monitor intensive commercial air traffic around Indira Gandhi International Airport, where traffic has increased substantially in recent years. A multi-million-pound scheme to modernise systems at Delhi and Bombay has been delayed by rising costs. The new radars would have a range of 250 nautical miles, compared with the present system's range of 60 nautical miles.

The cost of upgrading equipment at Delhi and Bombay has risen to more than £70

million. There has been union resistance to some of the planned changes. The new equipment would show the altitude of aircraft instead of just the direction and distance, as at present. Pilots and air traffic controllers have frequently demanded the installation of secondary surveillance radar to give the altitudes of aircraft, arguing that air traffic was rising on average by 10 per cent a year at Delhi.

Indian authorities are preparing mass funerals next Tuesday for most of the dead.

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As hundreds of thousands of refugees — the innocent and the guilty — flee the horrors of war and starvation, sucking in the international community, *The Times* offers unsurpassed coverage from the front line and our bureaux worldwide. And, for a wider perspective, Michael Binyon, Our Diplomatic Editor, explains the historical background to the latest crisis.

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refugees trapped in the heart of darkness?

Fresh rebel attack on Hutus drives fugitives into arms of voodoo militia

EAST ZAIRE'S rebels battled with Rwandan Hutu extremists on the edge of Mugunga camp yesterday, forcing thousands of civilians closer to voodoo warriors in the west.

The rebels fired several rockets at the Hutu militia holed up in the camp. Locals said they were close to overrunning its outer perimeter in fighting which continued for most of yesterday.

Zairean refugees who escaped Sake, ten miles west of Mugunga, said the town was under the control of the Mai Mai, a mystical militia which believes its soldiers are bullet-proof. Dressed in white paint and monkey skins, and otherwise naked, the Mai Mai have emerged as a bizarre but important third force.

Cherabala Lwaboshi, a farmer who escaped Sake on a banana boat to Goma yesterday, said the Mai Mai had allowed "many thousands" of Rwandan Hutu civilians to flee west from Mugunga through Sake. They were apparently heading for the rich and fertile Masini area 50 miles away.

"They won't let anyone out with arms. They say the people can leave if they put down their guns," said Mr Lwaboshi. This policy plays directly into the hands of the rebels who want Mugunga's civilians out of the way. Their

Dithering by world leaders is playing into the hands of rebels bent on Mobutu's overthrow, Sam Kiley writes from Goma

aim is to destroy the *interahamwe*, the Rwandan Hutu militia behind the 1994 genocide of a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus.

The Mai Mai make odd comrades for the rebels, many of whom are Tutsis, because they have slaughtered hundreds of Tutsis around Sake in the last few weeks.

They do, however, have the advantage of having Rwandan Hutus, too. This stems from

attempts earlier this year by Rwandan Hutu refugees to create a "Hutu homeland" in Masini. They slaughtered thousands of indigenous Tutsis and members of the Hunde tribe.

Yesterday world leaders dithered over the mandate for an international military force for humanitarian intervention in east Zaire. The delay was to the advantage of the rebels whose aim is to rid the region

of the Hutu militia, and overthrow Zaire's President Mobutu.

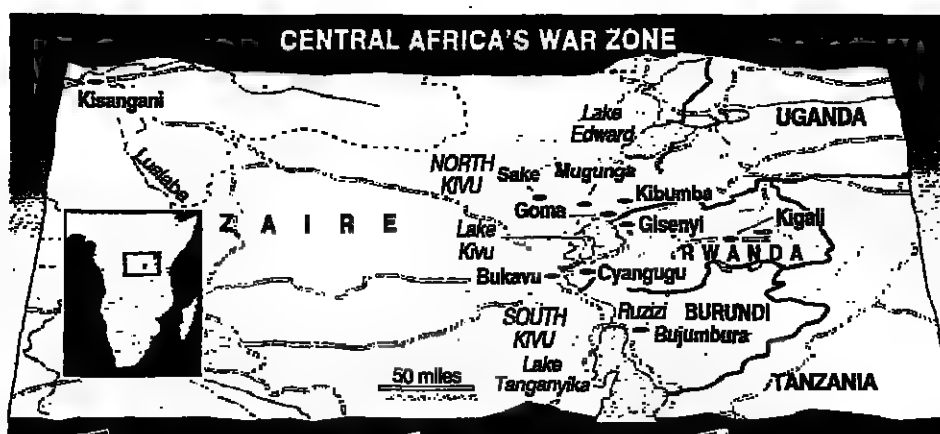
Aid groups reacted positively to the rebel moves. Mike McDonagh, director of Concern International in nearby Goma, said that if the rebels attacked the camps would "dissolve".

"The UN troops have no intention of getting in harm's way. I think the people who hold this area [the rebels] will launch an attack in the next 24 to 48 hours. Despite the fact that some innocent people would be killed, the matter will be resolved once and for all," he said.

Leading article and letters, page 21



Refugees line up at Goma's main food aid distribution centre yesterday



ZAIRE	RWANDA	BURUNDI
Formerly The Belgian Congo	Former part of German East Africa administered by Belgium	Former part of German East Africa administered by Belgium
1877: Explorer Henry Stanley reaches the mouth of the Congo river. King Leopold II of the Belgians takes the lead in exploring and exploiting the Congo Basin.	1899-1911: Hutu uprising destroys the Tutsi feudal hierarchy.	1890: Territory incorporated into German East Africa.
1884-85: The Berlin Conference recognises Leopold II as the sovereign head of the Congo Free State.	1901: Elections and referendum under auspices of UN.	From 1919, Burundi forms part of Rwanda-Urundi administered by the Belgians.
1908: The country is annexed to Belgium as the Belgian Congo.	1952: July 1: UN recognises Rwanda as a republic. Kiyibanda head of state.	1962: July 1: granted independence.
1960: June 30: Congo granted independence. Patrice Lumumba becomes the first prime minister.	1959-61: Hutu uprising destroys the Tutsi feudal hierarchy.	1966: July: Prince Charles Ndayize deposes his father Mwambutsa IV, and makes Captain Michel Micombero prime minister. November: Micombero declares Burundi a republic.
1961: January: Lumumba killed, reportedly by the Katanga province tribes.	1959-61: Hutu uprising destroys the Tutsi feudal hierarchy.	1972: April: Micombero dissolves Council of Ministers and takes full power. Fighting breaks out between rebels from Burundi and neighbouring countries and the ruling Tutsi. An estimated 120,000 die. July: Micombero reinstates a government with prime minister.
1965: Military coup. General Mobutu Sese Seko overthrows sitting president Joseph Kasavubu.	1962: Arusha peace accord provides for transitional period under a broad-based government.	1978: November 1: Micombero deposed by the army.
1971: October: name changed from Congo to Zaire.	1967: September 8: President Bagasa deposed by army. October 1: Pierre Buyoya assumes presidency.	1987: September 8: President Bagasa deposed by army. October 1: Pierre Buyoya assumes presidency.
1981: Following killing by unpaid soldiers and disarmed Tutsi citizens President Mobutu agrees political opposition should form a government.	1994: April: President Habyarimana killed when his plane crashes, reportedly shot down by extremist Hutus. The Hutu army then carry out pre-planned genocide against Tutsi minority. Up to 1 million people massacred in three months.	1994: June: Melchior Ndayizeye, a Hutu, elected president. October: Tutsi dominated army attempts coup. Ndayizeye killed and racial fighting restarts.
1982-85: Ailing Mobutu and opposition locked in power struggle.	1994: July: RPF declares a government of national unity which includes moderate Hutus.	1995: Despite formation of a coalition government in 1994 ethnic fighting continues.

UN urged to send aid to Rwanda

By RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ZAIRE yesterday stunned United Nations officials by saying international aid was not wanted there and should instead be distributed in Rwanda and Burundi "to encourage refugees to go home".

Mutumbo Bakafwa Nsenda, deputy Prime Minister, told the UN World Food Summit the two countries had shown nothing but "indifference, ingratitude and even scorn" towards Zaire for giving refuge to thousands of Hutus and Tutsis.

"The fate of a million human beings is being played out amid the total indifference both of the international community and of the governments of the places these people are from", he said. Zaire was "launching a pressing appeal... that all urgent action and all humanitarian aid destined for the refugees is delivered and distributed in their countries of origin".

The World Food Programme said that despite Zaire's objections, the organisation was ready to airdrop 100 tonnes of food a day to refugees in eastern Zaire "once the area is secured militarily". However, airdrops meant there would be no control of distribution.

An aid group yesterday retracted a suggestion of cholera among Rwandan refugees in eastern Zaire. Erick Bozoro, the spokesman for Argentina's Doctors in Catastrophes, said: "It is now believed to be... another type of diarrhoeal disease."

South African military personnel arrived in Tanzania yesterday to discuss how Pretoria could contribute to peacekeeping.

Two bystanders died when Zairean soldiers opened fire on a Reuters cameraman in the eastern city of Kisangani. Marc Hoogsteyns was not hit but was beaten up.

ROOTS OF THE
CONFLICT PAGE 16

Bitter experience in Somalia will shape relief effort

MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT
ON THE PERILS OF PEACEKEEPING

The Mogadishu syndrome will hang threateningly over the latest multinational humanitarian mission for Africa, as nations decide what contribution to make towards the relief operation in eastern Zaire.

The experience of American forces in Somalia in 1992-3 stands as a permanent warning to all the countries now suddenly jumping on the "must-do-something" bandwagon and offering troops for Zaire. Instead of focusing on a specific humanitarian role in Somalia, the Americans tried to solve all the country's civil war problems and paid with 18 lives.

Already, there are calls for

the Zaire force to separate and disarm the Rwandan Hutu extremists and disband the refugees encamped in eastern Zaire. Aid agencies argue that the refugee problem will not be solved until the militia have their weapons removed.

American attempts to disarm the Somali factions led to confrontations that even the United Nations mandate. The Somalia and Zaire missions, however, will have one vital common denominator: Authorisation for the multinational intervention force comes under Chapter 7

of the UN Charter which empowers the troops to take whatever measures are necessary to implement the mandate. It is enforcement, not peacekeeping.

Like Somalia, and unlike the humanitarian force sent to the former Yugoslavia, the multinational force for Zaire will not wear blue berets, although they will be sent with the authority of the UN.

There are an estimated six million AK47 rifles in central Africa where Hutu and Tutsi have been feuding for decades. And, to add to these

ingredients, the French who will be participating in the multinational force, carry with them colonial baggage which could put at risk the efforts of the relief operation. France's links with the former Hutu-led regime in Rwanda, and its support for the administration of President Mobutu of Zaire make its participation highly sensitive.

For Britain and the other countries which have decided, after much reluctance, to send troops, a number of key questions have to be resolved: should the mission be strictly humanitarian, how flexible should the rules of engagement be to protect troops from rebel fire, will the command

structure be sufficiently robust with the Canadians in charge, and the Americans in a secondary role, will there be a credible African force available to take over responsibility after three or four months; and what are the physical challenges of deploying a large force into a landlocked country where the political leadership is weak and unreliable?

Geography and time will limit the equipment that can be sent to Zaire. Since the nearest port is 1,000 miles away, heavy equipment such as armoured personnel carriers, will have to be airlifted in by American

transport aircraft. It will be a huge operation.

The lessons of Bosnia-Herzegovina will have to be remembered: delivering humanitarian supplies in a war zone where the unpredictable was around every corner led to firefights, ambushes and humiliating hijacks in which British soldiers were forced to hand over their weapons.

Under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, the multinational troops will have tougher rules of engagement than the hapless UN soldiers sent initially to Bosnia: they were allowed to open fire only in self-defence. Potentially, the soldiers going to Zaire will be able to fire first. However,

they are not being sent there to take on rebel militia but to save lives.

Confrontation would be risky and could prolong the mission, something the British Government is clearly anxious to avoid. The British contributions to the missions in Angola last year and Rwanda in 1994 were successfully completed within six months.

The positive aspect of this latest venture is that Britain and other Nato countries now have a wealth of post-Cold War peacekeeping and humanitarian experience which should help to mould an effective force.

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Bloodshed, greed and intrigue fashioned former Belgian Congo out of jungle straddling the Equator

West remains wary of going back into sinister quagmire

IN WESTERN minds Zaire is for ever fixed as the heart of darkness. Since Stanley explored the vast jungle straddling the Equator, the former Belgian Congo has acquired a sinister reputation, further blackened by Conrad's searing expose of greed, exploitation and sheer evil.

Belgium's record was abysmal in the Congo, the size of Western Europe and the richest and worst administered colony in Africa. It was once the personal fiefdom of the rapacious King Léopold II. The plunder of its riches, the failure to train Congolese senior civil servants and the precipitous departure in 1960 plunged the country into immediate civil war. Zaire was born amid bloodshed and confusion.

The chaos at independence presented the United Nations with its greatest military and political challenge since the Korean War. It barely survived, paralysed by the resulting bitter East-West rift. UN intervention cost millions of pounds, hundreds of casualties and took the life, in a plane crash, of Dag Hammarskjöld, the Secretary-General.

The slaughter of civilians, the rape of nuns, the marauding of European mercenaries and the intrigues of the Soviet

MICHAEL BINYON,
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR ON THE
ROOTS OF THE CONFLICT IN
CENTRAL AFRICA

Union, the CIA and Western mining interests left an indelible impression of bloodshed and bungling that has haunted the West and the UN.

As the fighting dragged on, weariness overtook the early optimistic efforts to separate warring tribes: the famed remark by a BBC reporter running up to the lorries carrying nuns rescued from the jungle summed up the horror and the cynicism: "Is there anyone here who's been raped and speaks English?"

Small wonder, therefore, that the world is so wary of returning.

The crisis began within days of Belgium granting independence on June 30, 1960. African troops mutinied against their Belgian officers and went on the rampage in the capital, Léopoldville, now Kinshasa. The new Prime Minister, Patrice Lumumba, dismissed the Belgian officers and appointed a former journalist, Joseph Mobutu, as Army Chief of Staff. Belgium rushed in 10,000 paratroopers. They restored order, but so intense was the hatred of

their presence that the UN agreed to intervene.

Hammarskjöld prepared a "stop-gap" plan to send forces drawn initially from Africa. Commanded by General Carl van Horn, they arrived in mid-July, but were immediately opposed by Lumumba. Days before their arrival, the southern mineral-rich province of Katanga, now Shaba, declared independence. Backed by the huge mining interests of the Belgian-owned firm Union Minière and 20,000 Europeans living there, Moïse Tshombe, the premier, refused permission for UN forces to land.

Lumumba, a leftwinger bitterly opposed to Belgium and the West, was unable to control the country or regain control of Elisabethville, the Katangan capital. Rioting and looting spread. The UN forces were increased to 5,000 men, as Ethiopians, Swedes, Moroccans and Irish forces, seeing action for the first time, were flown in. The Americans provided transport.

Food in the capital was short as communications were paralysed. Faced by the refusal of Belgium to withdraw troops as long as its citizens were held hostage and in danger, Lumumba threatened to call for Soviet help.



A distraught man emerges from his car to plead with Indian troops advancing on Jadotville, in the former Belgian Congo, in 1963. His wife and a friend inside the car had just been killed when the soldiers attacked the vehicle.

More troops arrived from Canada, Indonesia, Egypt, Pakistan and Malaysia. At their height the UN forces numbered 19,800 from 30 countries. They were largely ineffective, however, lacking equipment, weapons, ammunition or a clear mandate. They could not reach the interior or prevent atrocities. One group of 13 Italian airmen was slaughtered and, amid widespread horror, some troops were reportedly eaten by cannibals. Hammarskjöld and Ralph Bunche, the UN Assistant Secretary-General,

shuttled between Léopoldville and Elisabethville, but could not end the rebellion or rifts in the Congolese Government.

Amid the confusion, General Mobutu staged a coup against Lumumba, and the President, Joseph Kasavubu, installed a military junta. Lumumba was held under house arrest. The Russians denounced the entire UN operation and demanded that Hammarskjöld resign. Lumumba slipped away from his UN guard, trying to reach his base in a provincial town; he was captured by General

Mobutu's forces, and executed a few months later. The West, and the CIA in particular, were blamed. Six left-wing countries withdrew their forces in protest.

The UN forces at first had no mandate to intervene in the growing civil war, but in 1961 the Security Council authorised it to use force. Gradually the country was pacified, although not Katanga. White mercenaries, employed by Tshombe, terrorised the rest of the country as they fought for Katanga independence and prevented the arrival of UN

forces. Among the most notorious was "Mad" Mike Hoare.

In September 1961, Hammarskjöld was urged to negotiate with the Katangans; but on his way to meet Tshombe in Northern Rhodesia, his plane crashed.

The war dragged on, but in January 1963 Tshombe surrendered. UN forces left in June 1964; the operation had cost about \$10 million a month — a huge sum in 1960. Tshombe became Prime Minister of a united country, only to lose power to General Mobutu in a 1965 coup. Katanga rebels with-

drew to Angola, harrying the Congo for years.

General Mobutu changed the country's name to Zaire in 1971. Consolidating his grip through manipulation of tribal loyalties, he bought off opposition using the huge personal funds he has accumulated, largely from the nationalised mines.

Growing corruption, mismanagement and the neglect of infrastructure led to periodic rebellion. Four years ago there was a virtual coup by the Government, which refused to recognise his authority. However, he changed the currency, effectively bankrupting his enemies. His brutal use of troops, sent to smash shops and harass civilians, shook the opposition; the "dual government" was ended with the appointment of a compromise Prime Minister, Leon Kengo wa Dondo, still in power.

The Congo saw the epitome of Fleet Street buccannery. Journalists were often in great danger, accused of being spies, and their reports could be crucial to the political outcome. Despite a barely functioning telegraph network, no expense was spared. In one typical exchange, the *Daily Express* cabled George Gale, its correspondent: "MAIL'S YOUNGHUSBAND UPSHOT REBELS REDWIDE STOP WHY YOU UNSHOT QUERY."

He explained by Telex that Younghusband had a monopoly on the only light aircraft available. The *Express* snapped back: "WHY YOU UNBUSY PLANE QUERY EDITOR DEMANDS EXPLANATION STOP."

Gale chartered a plane, and the race for scoops was on.

US intervention risks Clinton's policy agenda

AS THE American 508th Airborne Infantry Regiment prepares to fly out to Zaire, Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, confirmed yesterday that American troops would stay in Bosnia-Herzegovina next year.

The decision, flagged for months by the Clinton Administration, is controversial; the memory of the bodies of American servicemen being dragged through the streets of Somalia in the first months of Mr Clinton's presidency has not faded.

Mr Clinton, who has been struggling to make the decisions on the troop commitments before leaving today for holiday and a tour of East Asia, is also searching urgently for a Secretary of State to replace Warren Christopher.

In Zaire and Bosnia, he risks repeating some of the worst mistakes of his first term. The greater danger is that he may let trouble spots such as Zaire and Bosnia distract him from more politically awkward

questions such as relations with China and Russia.

The Zaire move, a week and a day after Mr Clinton's election, repeats in microcosm the strengths and flaws of his first term: the clear stance that America should play a humanitarian and peacekeeping role even in far-off conflicts, but the profound confusion about how to do so.

The plan to protect Goma airport without fighting Rwandan forces may not be feasible; as a State Department spokesman said yesterday: "It would be a massive error to underplay the degree of danger."

In deploying troops, the President can act independently of Congress; in passing treaties, he needs its endorsement from the start. If the Zaire mission goes wrong, it will jeopardise Mr Clinton's

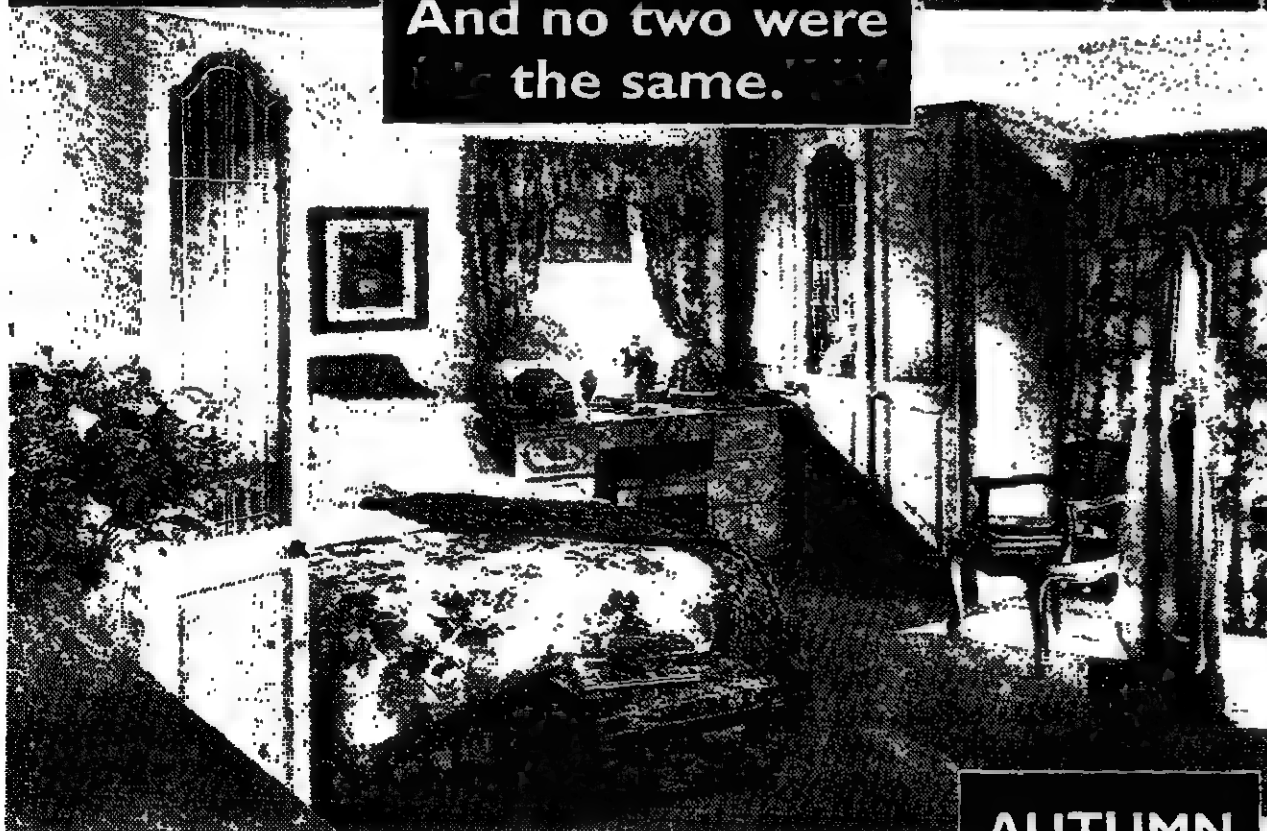
other foreign-policy objectives which must go through Congress, such as a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty for nuclear weapons, a chemical weapons treaty and an expansion of Nato. In trade policy, he also wants to extend the North American Free Trade Agreement to Chile and to smooth China's path into the World Trade Organisation.

It is clear Congress will give him as a rough a ride in his second term as in his first. Jesse Helms, the arch-conservative remains chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Benjamin Gilman, defender of human rights in China, will continue to head the House International Relations Committee.

Despite the political difficulty of the battles Mr Clinton will face, it would be damaging to America and its military allies if he used the flashpoints of Zaire and Bosnia to duck more far-reaching problems.



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Tension rises in Hebron

Jerusalem: Trepidation on the streets of Hebron and protests among right-wing Jews grew yesterday as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators resumed talks on an Israeli troop pullout which both sides see as approaching the endgame (Christopher Walker writes).

Fears grew that a final agreement would be followed by inter-communal violence. In Jerusalem, Jews daubed walls with graffiti threatening the life of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister.

Cancer deaths decline in US

Washington: American cancer deaths have declined for the first time this century and experts say mortality rates from all forms of the disease could fall by 15 to 50 per cent in two decades (Tom Rhodes writes). A reduction in the number of male smokers is seen as largely responsible. Reduced drinking and exposure to the sun may also play a part.

Jackson weds in Australia

Sydney: Michael Jackson will wed Debbie Rowe, the woman who is carrying his child, in a private ceremony here today (Roger Maynard writes). Some claim the singer, 38, has already married her. "Please respect our privacy and let us enjoy this wonderful time," Jackson said.

Twin raids kill 18 Algerians

Paris: Suspected Muslim fundamentalists killed 18 people in two overnight raids in Medea province, south of Algiers, bringing to nine the number of attacks reported on civilians in the past two weeks. More than ninety people have died. (Reuters)

Hope for Peru mine victims

Lima, Peru: Rescuers stepped up attempts to free miners trapped by an earthquake after they heard banging on rocks. At least 11 miners are known to have been killed in Tuesday's quake at the Andean Guanillo mine. (AFP)

Acquittal of policeman sparks riots in Florida

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

FOR the second time within a month, racial rioting erupted in St Petersburg, Florida, hours after a white policeman was cleared in the shooting that led to the original violence.

More than 200 police battled youths, some armed with automatic weapons, who threw rocks and petrol bombs in the city's predominantly black South Side district. As night fell on Wednesday, witnesses said the city sounded like a war zone, echoing with bullets, sirens and shouts. At one crossroads alone, police counted at least 50 spent cartridges. Elsewhere, a dozen fires blazed, unattended by firemen who did not approach for fear of coming under attack.

The violence subsided early yesterday, leaving one police officer wounded in the leg and at least seven other people injured. One bullet pierced the windshield of a sheriff's helicopter, grazing the co-pilot's arm, and forcing it to make an emergency landing.

However, the unrest was less widespread than the October riot which left more than a dozen injured and caused \$5 million (£3 million) of damage. Wednesday's violence broke

out after a grand jury exonerated a police officer, James Knight, over the shooting of Tyrone Lewis, 18, a black motorist who was stopped for speeding on October 24. The jury found that the officer acted with "a reasonable fear of imminent death... that he was in danger of being run over, or thrust into oncoming traffic".

Mr Lewis had bumped the officer four times and refused to follow orders to surrender, the jurors said in a nine-page statement. They added that the shooting was not racially motivated and that their findings were "the only conclusions that could reasonably be reached".

Jurors said Officer Knight was unable to see inside the car which had heavily tinted windows, and so moved to the front to look through the windshield. Mr Lewis moved the vehicle towards him, bumping him twice "in an apparent effort to intimidate or challenge the officer", the jurors said.

The car hit Officer Knight again when his partner broke a side window. The officer warned the driver to stop or he would shoot.

The car then turned sharply



Supporters of a black separatist group in St Petersburg recoil from spray used by police trying to make an arrest

to the left, hitting the policeman a fourth time and dropping him onto the car's hood. The officer fired three times, hitting Mr Lewis in the arm and chest.

Police later learnt that the car Mr Lewis was driving had been reported stolen and that he was wanted on three outstanding arrest warrants. Crack cocaine was found in the car.

But the jurors' decision angered many in the black community. "A terrible injustice has been handed down," said Perkins T. Shelton, a civil

rights activist. "The police officer thought he was in danger of his life? All he had to do was step aside. Instead, he shot and killed that boy."

Police administrators had decided the shooting could have been avoided. Mr Knight was suspended for 60 days without pay after his superiors ruled that he violated guidelines by standing in front of the car too long, placing himself in danger unnecessarily.

Police Chief Darrel Stephens blamed the latest violence on a small group of

activists who had advocated violence if Mr Knight was not charged with murder.

"A good part of the activity... was planned," Mr Stephens said. "I don't believe that this was a spontaneous event."

The trouble began after police arrested several black youths on Wednesday outside a meeting place for members of the black separatist group, the National People's Democratic Uhuru Movement. The group has called for the execution of the officers involved in last month's shooting.

Friends and colleagues of the suspended officer were also unhappy, complaining that he had been unfairly treated in an effort to placate the black community.

But others accused the police of inflaming a tense situation with heavy-handed tactics. "This is overkill, outright overkill," said John Watson, a member of an advisory committee that reviews complaints against police.

Ell Daniel, St Petersburg police spokesman, said: "If we let the criminals take over the streets, we're all going to die."

Clinton appointee faces spy scandal

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE STATE Department's intelligence chief was under investigation in Washington yesterday over several breaches of security, including an improper demand for top secret documents linking her husband and a family friend to the Hungarian spy service.

Tobi Gati, Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence, a close friend of Hillary Clinton and a political appointee, was also facing inquiries by the department's inspector-general over questionable contact with foreign officials including Andrei Kozyrev, the former Russian Foreign Minister.

Mrs Gati, 50, is a former vice-president of the United Nations Association who joined the National Security Council as a Russian expert in early 1993. At a time when she had no security clearance, it appears Mrs Gati obtained two highly classified documents from the National Security Agency, the surveillance monitoring service for the Washington secret service.

One of the papers linked a family friend to the Hungarian intelligence service while the second suggested that Charles Gati, her husband who was then a policy planning official at the State Department, was a counterintelligence risk because of his close ties to the Hungarian Embassy in Washington. Mrs Gati yesterday denied seeking the secret documents.

Chicago mourns as its cardinal dies

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S most prominent Roman Catholic Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, died yesterday after a highly public bout of cancer for which he refused treatment.

Catholic churches across the United States hoisted federal bunting and Chicago fell into a rare melancholy. The mood, said one resident, was as sombre as on the day of President Kennedy's assassination in 1963.

In recent weeks a nation watched with grim awe as the 66-year-old priest twisted in the throes of his fate. Cardinal Bernardin had suffered pancreatic cancer for a year but last month he announced he had taken himself off chemotherapy. He realised the disease was terminal and he was ready to die.

He harnessed his terminal sickness to spread his beliefs, but the one person he could not tell was his infirm mother, Maria Bernardin, a

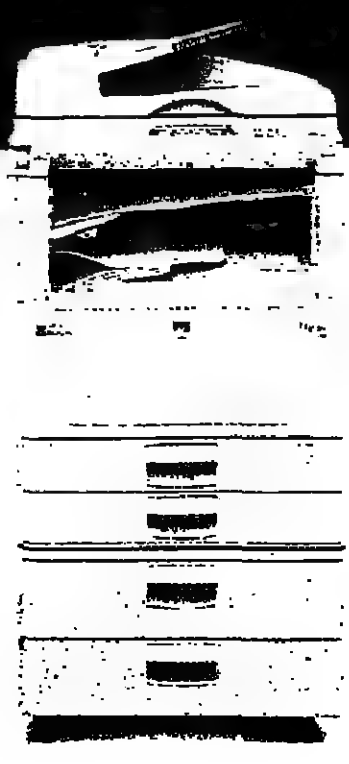
widow for 61 years, does not follow the news on television, nor on radio or in the press. Yesterday it fell to her other child, the cardinal's sister, to announce that her son was dead. It was Mrs Bernardin's 92nd birthday.

Cardinal Bernardin's illness was the most public, and arguably the most inspiring, of drawn-out deaths. He remained at his work throughout, even visiting a prisoner on death row to "swap notes" on impending destiny. His calm inspired people of many religious denominations.

On his last night the cardinal spoke by telephone to President Clinton and to the Pope, who was in Rome yesterday. The pontiff said he was greatly saddened by the death and, in a message to the Chicago archdiocese, he praised Cardinal Bernardin's "untiring work".

Obituary, page 23

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EXPERIENCE SETS US A WORLD APART

The film that Mick Jagger banned

In 1968 the Rolling Stones' singer had a whim — a film shot in a circus, where he and friends would perform. But the Stones found themselves outshone and only now has the film been seen. Joseph Connolly reports

I was Mick Jagger who banned it," says Nick Haig, co-producer of the legendary 1968 Rolling Stones feature film, *Rock and Roll Circus*, selectively premiered last month at cinemas and this week available on video. This constitutes the first time that any version of the movie has ever been seen. In early 1969, between 30 and 40 hours of film were summarily abandoned — unedited and (certainly by Jagger) unloved.

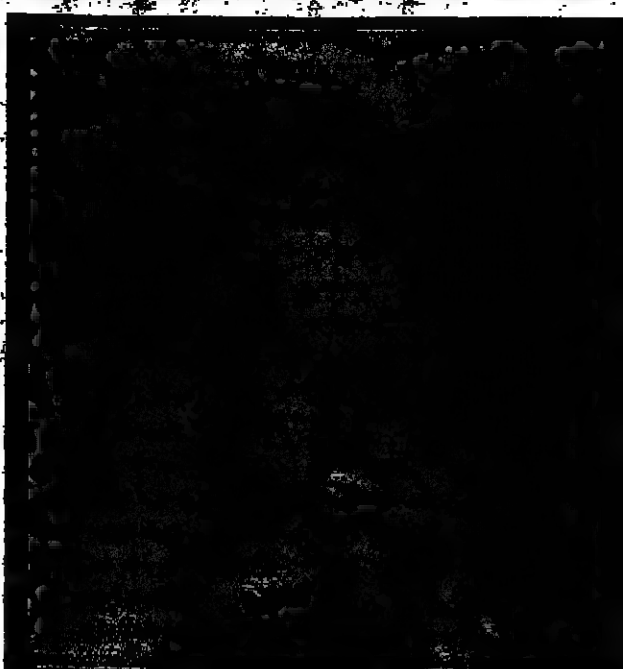
"It was Brian Jones who was really screwing up the Stones by this stage," recalls Haig. "He was out of his tree. Mick decided that the group's performance simply hadn't been up to the mark, so he pulled the plug on the whole enterprise. I myself didn't even see the rushes."

A reputedly excellent act from The Who (once rumoured to be Jagger's real reason for losing interest) was therefore lost to the world, as were contributions from Eric Clapton and John Lennon — no other Beatles also, but Lennon of course insisted that Yoko Ono be a fellow artist.

"It was the most extraordinary sight," says Haig. "John came on and played guitar, while Yoko appeared with a huge black sack. She climbed into it, and someone zipped it up, whereupon she grayed within the sack and groaned — little humpers kept sticking out — while Lennon twanged away."

As was the way at the end of the Sixties, the whole venture came about as a result of the whim of a megastar — in this case Jagger. The idea was that there should be a vast circus tent and in between the traditional acts, such as fire-eaters and knife-throwers, all the Rolling Stones' rock'n'roll mates could perform as they pleased. The Stones themselves wore extraordinary and almost Sergeant Pepper costumes (even the "audience," recalls Haig — comprising VIPs of the day, friends of the moment and the usual thousands of hangers-on — were dressed in little ponchos of primary colours) and so all you needed — apart from love — were huge and ferocious animals.

At this point the insurers had a collective seizure. "Mick insisted upon a lion," says Haig. "But what are they going to do with it?" the insurers asked. Well, you never knew what rock stars were



Marianne Faithfull was one of the many guest artists



Pete Townshend and Roger Daltrey, of The Who, left; and the original Rolling Stones line-up, with Brian Jones, in Sergeant Pepper-style clothes play to the cameras and an audience equally flamboyantly dressed

going to do, so I didn't even try to answer. They said that beyond a stipulated distance, every shot that Jagger came closer to the lion, the premium would rise by £50. Someone went into the cage at some point. I assume he came out."

Nick Haig came to Jagger's attention via his early directorial work on ITV's *Ready, Steady, Go!* ("The reason you remember only a jostling crowd and a lighting gantry is that we were given no sets and a tiny studio").

Now 57, he was at the time the youngest director on the independent television network, and often worked with Michael Lindsay-Hogg, the eventual director of *Rock and Roll Circus* (and, later, of the Beatles' final performance on the rooftop of Apple in Saville Row). Lindsay-Hogg is the man responsible for the final edit of *Circus*. The video version is just over one hour long. This, according to Haig's recollection, is no more than a thirtieth of the stock available. "We filmed over two very long days," he says. "Eighty-three or nine in the morning until three or four the next morning. It was all very amiable, too. Many people were stoned or drunk, of course — but nicely so. Brian Jones was drinking lime juice out with acetone. At one point he was playing the maracas, but Keith Richards had to stand behind him before the shoot and move his arms up and down in an attempt to get the beat."

The best bit of the whole two-day session is, naturally enough, not on film: "I wandered into a dressing-room very late one night, and there were John Lennon, Keith Richards and Pete Townshend jamming away together — guitars, singing, few drinks, bit of dope. It went on for ages and the quality was marvellous."



Nick Haig was co-producer of *Rock and Roll Circus*

lous — I was mesmerised. The film was recorded in a studio on the North Circular Road, quite near by, belonging to my company, Intertel," recalls Haig. "We built the marquee inside. As to the film having been long lost and newly rediscovered, that is nonsense. The rushes have been locked away in the Rank Laboratories in Denham for decades. That's where we processed the film, and that's where it's been ever since."

After the abandonment of

the project, Haig went on to produce and direct two Jimi Hendrix shows at the Albert Hall, as well as a 1969 programme called *Supershow*. "This was in an old lino factory near Staines, which was converted into a studio. The programme contained the only existing Sixties footage of Led Zeppelin, and we also had

having it. We did, after a court case, eventually get the £10,000 but I'll never forget that meeting with Klein in his Dorchester suite. He was perfectly polite, wearing plimsolls I recall but the room was lined with all these grim mafia heavies. I truly thought I was going to be blown away — I didn't think I'd ever walk out of that room." Haig was as intrigued as anyone else by the prospect of seeing even an hour of this ancient extravaganza, but he stands to make no money out of it. On the video release, however, he received no credit and is contemplating legal action. He says modestly: "I am just a hardworking, jobbing director-producer — I received a one-off flat fee." (That goes for his American television work as well — residuals were yet to be invented.)

Since those heady Sixties days, Haig has done every sort of production work, most recently taking the opportunity to direct a musical based on *Pride and Prejudice*. "It's a shame that *Circus* wasn't released at the time," he muses. "It just disappeared like it never happened. The lid closed, and it was no more. But that's how it sometimes was. Towards 1970, I nearly brought the Beatles back together to play in a Roman amphitheatre in Libya, but apparently Ringo didn't like the food so that was more or less that."

The five-point guide to becoming a babe

YOU can hear them before you walk into the room. The place is crammed with tiny black dresses, razor-sharp bronzed cheekbones and swishing blonde tresses.

The Cheekbone gang has come to sip champagne and celebrate the publication of *Back on Top, A Woman's Guide to Self-Esteem and Happiness*. Borrowing liberally from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, this spiritual route-finder promises to steer misguided modern females out of the City of Doom towards the City of Happiness to the top of the Mountain of Clarity — each chapter representing an important stage on the voyage from fat, dowdy no-hoper to confident, ambitious sex kitten.

The philosophy of the book is surely lost on the Cheekbone gang — these babes have been sitting on the Mont Blanc of self-esteem ever since their first bra. One cannot imagine Vicky Barker, the book's author, ever getting lost in the Valley of Confusion ("The whole world has gone stark raving mad. Or is it just me?") let alone dallying in the City of Gloom (where "character assassins" such as Negative Self-Belief and the Inner Bitch wait to

Even goddesses need a little helping hand now and then, as Anjana Ahuja discovered

pounce). For even though Miss Barker claims to have hit a rough patch in 1992, she has emerged from what she describes as her "nosedive towards the gutter" and is now one of the gang. Tall, blonde and elegant, she circles the room exchanging animated air kisses with a line-up of guests boasting Joan Collins, Bob Geldof and Marie Helvin, as well as a smattering of Taras, Tamara and Normandies.

Tired of being stuck fast in the throng of celebrity cleavages and keen to pick up a few tips, I home in on what seems to be the most famous pair of cheekbones in the room. They turn out to belong to Caprice Bourret, the gorgeous, pouting Californian fronting the Wonderbra campaign this winter. During a gap in the conversation, I seize my

chance: "I can't imagine you ever feeling depressed. Have you ever used a self-help book?" Caprice speaks!

"Until two months ago, I was severely depressed and really low. People were telling me to sign this contract and that contract, and people were harassing my folks back home. But now I'm enjoying life. And I think it's great that people can turn to books like these." The soft drawl exudes thoughtfulness and sincerity. From my vantage point on a level with her magnificent bosom, I feel rather comforted to have discovered that even goddesses can use a little self-help.

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CONGO FEVER

Mixed motives, muddled aims and a massive problem

Chided by the French, chivvied by the Americans and honourably moved to mitigate a huge human catastrophe, Britain is preparing to contribute up to 3,500 troops to a Canadian-led multinational force for eastern Zaire. In New York yesterday, senior military officials from Britain, the US, France, Canada and other troop-contributing nations were drafting a mission statement for action under Chapter 7, the enforcement clause of the United Nations Charter, for approval by the Security Council. Meanwhile, as our Africa correspondent vividly describes on our front page today, the horrors of the Great Lakes were awaiting the visitors' arrival.

The broad objectives may seem clear enough: the first is to bring aid to a million helpless Rwandan refugees and to Zaireans displaced by the fighting in North and South Kivu provinces; the second is to make it possible for the Rwandan refugees to return home. But before any troops fly out into this rain-drenched tropic, impermissible ambiguities have to be eliminated.

Once the troops have found and fed the refugees, what then? Are they to be coaxed home to Rwanda voluntarily, with access to international relief as bait, along "humanitarian corridors"? The French argue that aid must continue to be provided in Zaire to those who refuse the bait. Will that view prevail? Or must the refugees be sent home whether they like it or not — the outcome preferred by the Rwandan and Zairean Governments and almost every aid agency involved in the region since the camps were set up in 1994?

If the task of repatriation is shirked, a repeat of the present catastrophe is almost certain. Compulsory repatriation implies a degree of coercion and would require international protection for those returning to Rwandan reception centres. If the camps in Zaire are not well on their way to closure before the troops pull out, the operation will have failed. This fact must be faced now.

The second great question concerns the

Rwandan Hutu *interahamwe* militias and their allies from the defeated former Rwandan Army. These are the ringleaders of the 1994 Rwandan massacres, defeated by the present Rwandan Government's forces. After forcing many Rwandans to flee with them across the border into Zaire, they established a reign of terror in the camps and are now using up to 400,000 refugees as human shields. Unless the multinational force separates these brutal militias from ordinary refugee families, they will continue to control for their own profit the distribution of food, water and medicines.

Opinion is divided on this issue. The Americans, mindful of Somalia, are adamant that their troops will not be used for such a risky operation of isolation and disarmament. So is France, which was for years the *interahamwe*'s armourer and patron. The British, rightly, do not exclude the necessity of confronting them. The UN mandate is expected to contain a phrase to the effect that the multinational force will not attempt to "modify the military balance in the area" — a phrase that leaves worrying scope for differing interpretations on the ground.

Provided that there is clarity on these critical points — and provided the rebels who currently control eastern Zaire agree to co-operate — the force now being assembled should be equal to the immediate humanitarian task of saving lives. Britain's decision to take part will also help its relations with Washington: a refusal to follow President Clinton's lead would send dangerous signals on Capitol Hill.

With prudent and appropriate modesty, no Western government is pretending to do more than apply high-tech palliatives. There is no talk of an international military solution to the turmoil enveloping the African Great Lakes or to the strong possibility that central government in Zaire will break down. But however temporarily and with whatever limited aims, British soldiers are about to face fierce challenges and the most serious risk.

HIS NUMBER IS UP

Davis is the wrong man to regulate the lottery

Had Peter Davis, Director-General of Oflot, been an otherwise exemplary watchdog of the National Lottery, then his misjudgment in accepting hospitality from one of the operators in the Camelot consortium might have been deemed just insufficient a reason for him to be dismissed. Now, however, it is becoming clear that Mr Davis is not even good at his day-to-day job. To the charges of weakness and lack of judgment can be added a third: incompetence.

A National Audit Office (NAO) report published in the summer into the running of the National Lottery discovered that, of the 21 checks devised to be run by Oflot on Camelot, only one had been fully implemented. On Wednesday night, Mr Davis was given a grilling by the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Alan Williams, the Labour MP, said that the report exposed the "worst administrative incompetence" that he had ever encountered. There had been "quite inadequate protection of the public interest", he said.

Worse, the NAO had not even been given the opportunity to examine the way in which Camelot's accounts had been put together. So it had to rely on information from Oflot. There is some dispute as to whether Mr Davis has the powers to send auditors into Camelot. Robert Sheldon, chairman of the PAC, thinks he has. Mr Davis claims that he has not. Either way, Camelot should itself welcome the NAO. If it is confident about its own probity, it will have nothing to hide. If it wants the public to be confident about its probity, it should relish the scrutiny.

Exactly two years since the lottery was launched, the controversies over its operation have clouded what should have been an unqualified success story. Each year, billions of pounds are being given to good

causes at no cost to the Exchequer. The fruits of that money will soon be apparent to almost all in the land. But celebration is constrained by a sense of public unease. What should be the toughest regulatory office of all is not up to scratch.

Some of the failings are the Government's fault. For example, the PAC recommended in its Report of Session 1994-95 that the NAO should have full access to the books and records of Camelot. The Treasury deemed this not to be "appropriate or necessary". When the legislation was drawn up, nobody seems to have thought about who should keep the interest on unclaimed prize money. Now Camelot is £7 million richer as a result and Oflot's pleas for the money to go to good causes have been ignored by the operator.

Mr Davis's job itself was badly designed. He should not have been responsible for both choosing and regulating the operator. But, however difficult the job, it has become increasingly clear that Mr Davis is the wrong man for it. He was described by members of the PAC on Wednesday as "dilatatory" and "unimaginative" and was told that he should be "more proactive" in his control of Camelot. These criticisms come on top of the "serious lack of judgment" charges levelled at him earlier in the year.

Last December Virginia Bottomley, National Heritage Secretary, was on the verge of sacking the director-general. She should have done so; but if, as she said, the decision was then "finely balanced", the weights have surely come down now on the other side. She may have been worried about the bad publicity his dismissal would bring. She should consider instead the bad publicity that his continuance in office has engendered. Mr Davis should be replaced.

MASTERFUL MASTERMIND

The programme's passing will be much mourned

"You passed on just the one." How often has the retired teacher from Darlington or the librarian from Chichester inwardly winced as Magnus Magnusson gently reminded the occupant of the well-worn black leather chair that a lepidopterist is, of course, a butterfly collector or that Clytemnestra's son was Orestes? A rueful grin is the most the contestants are allowed: no cursing, no arguing. *Mastermind* has been a masterpiece of civilised intellectual jousting. The television contest has subjected more than 1,400 would-be brains of Britain to its rapid-fire interrogation. But as its inquisitor might put it, I started 25 years ago and now I must finish. *Mastermind* will be broadcast for the last time at the end of the next series.

At its zenith ("The point on the celestial sphere vertically above an observer?" "Correct") the programme attracted 12 million viewers; it still commands six million. The winners become national celebrities: the clerics, diplomats, schoolmistresses and taxi drivers with encyclopaedic knowledge not only of the Third Crusade or films of Alfred Hitchcock, but with all the trivia that furnish a well-stocked mind.

The programme has become a yardstick of the nation's intellectual attainment: if viewers could answer but one of the spe-

selfes lucky; if they could answer half they could boast a well-rounded education. *Mastermind* has spawned a national obsession with general knowledge: from popular board games to raucous pub quizzes.

Mastermind's success has been due in part to a simple formula, in part to the consistency of its standards and in large measure to the gravitas, courtesy and reserved humour of its Icelandic-born question-master. The rules tried to ensure that no one picked a subject too narrow or banal; they also insisted that those making it through to the next round offer a different and unrelated specialised subject. But why contestants could do a little question-spotting, especially for the general knowledge round. The inquisitors have their favourite niches of knowledge. Greek mythology is one; classifications — fungi, songbirds or monastic orders — another; painting, etymology and folklore are also popular. The skilled competitor has to shave seconds off each answer: a single word is better than a sentence, a pass better than waiting for a word on the tip of the tongue. The winners have set standards for the nation to emulate; and when *Mastermind* ends, a smart intellect will surely dream up a successor — *Fastermind*, perhaps — to

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Zaire: protection of aid 'not enough'

From the International Director of Oxfam

Sir, As an aid agency active in Central Africa, Oxfam is passionately committed to bringing humanitarian assistance to the earliest opportunity to those who have a right to it — Rwandan refugees and displaced Zaireans alike. But we must also strongly warn the international community and the British public that aid alone will not be enough. Unless permanent solutions are found to the deep-seated political crisis now spreading further across the whole region, there is no prospect of a quick end to such suffering.

We welcome the decision of Britain and the United States to join Canada in a military intervention to secure and protect humanitarian assistance (report, November 14), but we believe its mandate should not be confined solely to that aim. It must also make a key contribution to the efforts of the UN Special Envoy and others to achieve a political settlement in the region. Humanitarian, military and political strategies must work together.

Crucially this means that the intervention force should be mandated to disarm the genocidal militia and forces of the former Rwandan regime. These elements are responsible for up to one million deaths in Rwanda in 1994, have destabilised the region from their base in the camps, and continue to entrap the refugees, even at the cost of death by starvation and disease. Unless they are disarmed and separated, it will be impossible to deliver humanitarian assistance safely, ethically and effectively to those who need it and the goal of voluntary repatriation for the majority will not be achievable.

Ever since the refugees fled into Goma and elsewhere in 1994 the international community has hidden behind an "aid alone" strategy. Repeated calls for action against the militia from Oxfam and many other agencies who are involved with the refugees — and who therefore took a particular risk in speaking out publicly — have gone unheeded. The Security Council ducked the challenge in March 1995 when it voted on security options, but this time around its members have the chance to get it right by authorising both aid and political action.

States who are backing the military force are saying that they do not want to risk "involvement" in the regional politics. But by sending 12,000 troops into the region, along with a multi-million-dollar aid operation, they are becoming involved. The question is whether they do so in pursuit of a coherent and far-sighted strategy, capable of stopping this regional firestorm, or merely as a tactic in response to immediate pressures.

The Genocide Convention places a firm and inescapable duty on all states to find, seize and hold to account the perpetrators of genocide. Let the international community be wholehearted about its involvement, and let that involvement be on the side of justice.

Yours sincerely,
STEWART WALLIS,
International Director, Oxfam,
74 Banbury Road, Oxford,
November 14.

Children in poverty

From the Regional Director UK and Europe, Save the Children

Sir, Although Save the Children is pulling out of some of its long-term community projects in this country, we are not abandoning our work with young people in the UK (report, November 12). Our commitment to working with children and young people here, both directly and in partnership with communities, is as resolute now as it has been since 1923.

You rightly report a drop in our total income. We believe that the best impact of our diminished resources will in future be a combination of practical work, research and speaking out for children.

The situation facing young people in the UK today is getting worse. One in three lives in poverty; many face homelessness and unemployment; and there is a continuing crisis among children in care. It would be impossible for us to lessen our commitment to children in the UK.

Yours sincerely,
JUDY LISTER,
Regional Director UK and Europe,
Save the Children,
17 Grove Lane, SE25,
November 12.

Best form of defence?

From Mr Tim Beach

Sir, "Shirov's play", writes Raymond Keene, your chess correspondent, commenting on the Ponty tournament (November 11), "blended erudition and violence in pleasing measure". I am sure we all know what he means, but the image that comes to mind is of a gratified superior reporting on the performance of a Soviet commissar or a Spanish inquisitor.

Yours faithfully,
TIM BEACH,
253 Selhurst Road, SE25,
November 12.

Letters for publication may

Homosexuals and the Church

From Mrs Mary Rose de Lisle

Sir, After all the commotion surrounding Mrs Anne Robinson's *Thought for the Day* broadcast, and the impending Southwark Cathedral service, it was a relief to read Libby Purves' thoughtful and balanced article "Broad church" (p. 24) (November 12). The point that makes about pairs of gay Christians living quietly together could well be applied to the Church of England as a whole.

As a member, I am saddened by the picture of our Church painted by the media. Schismatic, intolerant, quarrelling (as at Lincoln): why should anyone want to join us? But the reality is not so.

All over the country there are hard-working clergy caring for their parishioners, well-supported by their lay people. They don't hit the headlines, but they are a force for good. Our broad Church encompasses a whole area of middle ground, as well as the conservative evangelical group Reform and the Gay Christian Movement. This has always been one of our strong points throughout history.

Yours sincerely,
MARY ROSE DE LISLE,
Stockerton Hall,
Oakham, Leicestershire,
November 12.

Gurkha ruling is 'mean and shabby'

From Air Vice-Marshal Edward Crew

Sir, I was dismayed to read your report that the Gurkhas now stationed in Hong Kong are to be withdrawn to Britain unaccompanied by their families when the colony is returned to China (November 13; see also leading article same day).

Anyone who has served in any theatre where Gurkhas were also serving knows very well their quality as soldiers, and the debt that this country owes them. They have fought with us in two world wars as well as many smaller campaigns in recent years — the Falklands, Malaya and Borneo among others. Several have won the VC, the last comparatively recently in Borneo.

Surely we can treat these men more generously. There has been — and still is — ample time and ample accommodation to make proper provision for these men and their families. Obviously there are occasions when unaccompanied service is necessary. But a pre-announced redeployment to Britain is not one of them.

There is still time to reconsider this

that "more or less universally" there is an acceptance that "homosexual desire is not a sin or a crime". But that is nothing new. Inappropriate sexual desires, whether homosexual or heterosexual, have long been seen as morally neutral. Giving in to the sin, and that is still the view of most people.

According to the *Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles* survey (Blackwell, Oxford, 1994, p.24), the great majority of men in Britain (70 per cent) think that sex between two men is always or mostly wrong. Well over half (58 per cent) of women think the same. In America, according to the 1989 *General Social Survey*, three-quarters of the respondents thought homosexual acts were always or almost always wrong.

Libby Purves implies that Southwark Cathedral on Saturday will be full of mostly "mild, thoughtful, morally rather conventional people". But the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, as well as publishing the celebration at Southwark, also publishes literature that encourages what Libby Purves describes as the "freewheeling, cruising, contagious, clubbing" lifestyle.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOLLOWAY,
Vicar of Jesmond,
Council member, Reform,
7 Otterburn Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
November 12.

apparently rather mean and shabby decision. I hope this will be done.

Yours etc,
EDWARD CREW,
13 Silver Street,
Tisbury, Gloucestershire,
November 13.

From Mr C. R. Barnett

Sir, Given their long, loyal and distinguished service to the country, of course the Gurkhas should be accommodated in Britain.

However, adapting the new quarters at John Moore Barracks in Rokestone, as you suggest, is unnecessary. Simply releasing some of the thousands of married quarters, which have remained empty — in the case of the 120 at Old Park Barracks in Dover for years, not months — would solve the problem.

Yours faithfully,
C. R. BARNETT,
Director of Health and Housing,
Dover District Council,
White Cliffs Business Park,
Dover, Kent.

al fee, traditionally 100 guineas, for these enormously valuable services. Those without private means (like most of us) did other work before coming to the Bar and saved up the necessary funding. Nowadays the master provides his services entirely free of charge.

The £6,000 therefore is not remuneration, it is an allowance provided by working barristers from their personal earnings. It is not a necessary overhead: it is a gift. Some barristers contribute out of a sense of moral obligation; others because of pragmatic pressures.

Either way, it remains a personal gift from one human being to another. Perhaps we should not be surprised if the children of the welfare state find that difficult to understand.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MCCARTHY,
Stoke on Trent Crown Court,
Bethesda Street, Hanley,
Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire,
November 9.

Library funding

From the Chairman of Arlesey Town Council

Sir, I expect Anne Campbell and other MPs (letter, November 11) mean well in their concern to have a computer terminal in every library. Arlesey is not alone in its campaign to keep its threatened local library (which is also the school library) open at all. Please, MPs, campaign for the whole public library service, not least in rural communities.

Yours faithfully,
F. HARROWELL,
Chairman, Arlesey Town Council,
30 Station Road,
Arlesey, Bedfordshire,
November 11.

Reader loyalty

From Mr Peter Miles

Sir, Filling in *The Times* Questionnaire, enclosed with Saturday's issue, I was asked how often I buy certain newspapers.

Since I do not buy *The Daily Telegraph*, should I have ticked "less than once a week" or "never" — or both?

Yours still faithfully,
PETER MILES,
71 Lynton Avenue,
West Ealing, W13,
November 12.

Business letters, page 20

'Naked' future for Stone of Scone

From Professor Emeritus G. D. S. Henderson, FSA, and Dr I. B. Henderson, FSA Scot

Sir, However picturesquely the Scottish establishment dresses up the reception and relocation of the Stone of Scone, its disassociation from the Chair of St Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey marks a real cultural loss and diminution of our nation's sense of the past. We write as Scots who have spent much of their working lives in the study and interpretation of the history and art of medieval Scotland.

The Stone of Scone's authenticity, to say nothing of its visual impact, is wholly bound up in its physical relation with the wooden chair, fully documented as being custom-built to house it in the year 1300, "made full fyne" by the leading craftsmen of the time. The resulting reliquary throne, solemnly placed alongside the shrine of a royal saint, has been until now a unique survivor and one of the most venerable objects in Western Europe. Even from the point of view of the history of furniture, the status of St Edward's Chair has been pretty high.

That this interesting and significant, not to say sacred, complex — which, incidentally, under King James VI and I was taken to symbolise the union of the Scottish and English crowns — should be so easily violated, with no obvious logic or excuse, indicates an unwelcome new roughness, in place of the accustomed informed caution, in the official handling and disposal of "heritage" materials. The arguments for not removing the Stone from Westminster Abbey have been little canvassed in public, and it is now too late to do so.

Whatever pseudo-medieval, necessarily speculative, late 20th-century visual presentation is now contrived for it, the Stone of Scone has been effectively stripped of 700 years of genuine historical context and of a setting of transcendental beauty and decorum. In Edinburgh it will simply be exposed "in all its naked improbability", to lift a phrase from W. F. Skene's classic article on the Stone, published in 1869.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE HENDERSON,
I. B. HENDERSON,
University of Cambridge,
Department of History of Art,
1 Scriptorium Terrace, Cambridge,
November 11.

NHS aftercare

From Mr P. A. Pennant-Rea

Sir, In contrast to the elderly man mentioned by Ms Tessa Jewell, MP (article, November 6), I am another old man who came out of hospital three weeks ago after an operation. I was returned home in an ambulance (with one other patient) accompanied by the driver, a paramedic and a nurse who was responsible for handing over to my wife all my medication. Awaiting me was the occupational therapist (equipment I would need).

On almost every day, since, a member of the district nursing service has been to my house with all the necessary dressings to replace the discarded ones. I have been attended almost every morning by a member of the community care services who help in washing, dressing and bed-making has been much appreciated. My doctor has also called to see me.

Ms Jewell can tell me of any other National Health Service which can approach ours in general efficiency. I shall be glad to hear from her.

Yours truly,
P. A. PENNANT-REA,
7 Broadlands Court,
Bourton-on-the-Water,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
November 12.

Socks appeal

From Mrs Liz Calvert Smith

Sir, Whilst researching an article on old remedies, I discovered this 19th-century one which may be of some help to those who suffer from foot odour (Dr Stuttford, November 11): "The unpleasant odour from perspiring feet may be prevented by sprinkling oatmeal in the socks, as used in the army; or, sprinkle bran in the socks frequently. Try either with good effect."

Who knows, it may work.
Yours faithfully,
LIZ CALVERT SMITH,
7 Crescent Gardens,
Eastgate, Ruislip, Middlesex,
November 11.

48-hour week

From Mr David Green

Sir, I dare say that professional institutions representing solicitors and accountants are sending out advice leaflets as a matter of urgency, to reassure members that under the new EU ruling they are not obliged to work 48 hours per week and to three weeks holiday a year (letters, November 14); furthermore the directive has no bearing on the total number of hours per week chargeable.

Signs of relief will be heard rattling windows all over the country.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID GREEN,
60 Windmill Road.

27/11/96 150

OBITUARIES

CARDINAL JOSEPH BERNARDIN

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, Archbishop of Chicago, died yesterday from cancer aged 68. He was born on April 2, 1928.

Joseph Bernardin was the softly spoken Archbishop of Chicago whose stoicism before the prospect of death from cancer became an inspiration, not only to his Roman Catholic flock in Chicago but to non-believers across the country. The outpouring of grief in the city when his death was announced was compared to that which greeted the news of President Kennedy's death.

Bernardin made it known that his cancer was inoperable in August at an emotional press conference. He always believed it was his duty, as a man struggling to be a good priest as well as a famous one, to discuss difficult matters — including those which others thought the Catholic Church should leave alone, such as AIDS and nuclear war. And, while his pronouncements occasionally brought him into conflict with interest groups on the Right and Left, he was respected among his fellow bishops as a conciliator and mediator who had helped to unify their views on many issues.

As leader of an American Catholic archdiocese, second only to Los Angeles in numbers, Bernardin became the best-known Catholic spokesman in the nation. He was a modernist, who accepted the reforms of Vatican II. But he was also a moderate, who believed in the notion of the "seamless garment" of life which cannot be rent. It was that respect for all life which led him to resist a liberalisation of church teaching on abortion, in which he denounced capital punishment and war.

Bernardin served a city full of immigrant families — Polish, Italian and Irish — and he was well placed by the experience of his own childhood to understand their problems. He was born in Columbia, South Carolina, the son of Italian parents. His father, a stone-cutter, died of cancer young, leaving his mother a

widow before she was 30. She sewed army uniforms in order to bring up her son and daughter alone.

Bernardin was educated at St Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and considered a career in medicine before settling on the priesthood. He was ordained in 1952 and served 14 years in the diocese of Charleston, South Carolina. In 1966, at the age of 38, he became the youngest bishop in the nation, when he was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Atlanta. He led the National Conference of Catholic Bishops from 1968 to 1972 as general secretary. No one shaped the newly formed body more than Bernardin.

In 1972 he was appointed Archbishop of Cincinnati, and ten years later Archbishop of Chicago, after the death of Cardinal John Cody. The autocratic Cody had left a divided flock, and a grand jury still investigating his muddled handling of church finances. Bernardin immediately raised morale among his priests by reverting to a more collegial system of management. He was installed at the Holy Name Cathedral on August 25, 1982, and made a cardinal by Pope John Paul II the following year.

Bernardin's name was made internationally in 1983, when he guided the delicate drafting of the Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on nuclear war, *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response* was one of the first signs that the American Catholic Church was emerging from its siege mentality, and could speak out boldly and critically on national policies.

The letter rejected the bombing of population centres, the first use of nuclear weapons and any rationale for nuclear war. Bernardin called the document "perhaps the most important and timely pastoral letter ever to come from the American hierarchy in its nearly two centuries of existence".

Later that year he first articulated the "seamless garment" or consistent ethic of life, when he took charge of the the bishops' "pro-life" activities. He determined to overcome the tension between the

peace and anti-abortion movements, and went a long way towards strengthening the Church's credibility on the latter issue, by committing material resources to help women with unwanted pregnancies.

In 1986 he appealed to Catholics to stop treating people suffering from AIDS like lepers. "God is loving and compassionate, not vengeful," he said. In 1992 he won a small victory for women's ordination, when the bishops rejected a document flaying him for it, in favour of Bernardin's more moderate proposal for "study and dialogue".

Then, in 1994, came a new challenge, when Bernardin was accused of sexually molesting Steven Cook — a young man, who claimed to have "retrieved" blocked memories of the incident through hypnosis. The charges seemed even more fantastic, because Bernardin had already established a model system for dealing with this sort of allegation in his archdiocese, one which was praised in all quarters. Under the relentless publicity, Bernardin stood calmly, quietly protesting his innocence. Cook later withdrew his \$10 million lawsuit against the cardinal, and said that he was no longer confident of trusting his newfound "memories". He was freely forgiven by Bernardin, who prayed with Cook before his death from AIDS last year.

Bernardin's dignified response on that occasion did much to restore the Church's tarnished image in such matters. But it was as nothing when compared with the manner in which he approached his dying. His fearless example during his last months was the last gift he gave to the Catholics of Chicago. It led him to some strange places — to death row, for example, where a convicted prisoner asked to pray with Bernardin before his execution.

He described his cancer as his last gift from God: "If we say we have faith, if we say we are putting ourselves in the hands of the Lord, then we can't hold back."

He is survived by his mother and a sister.



EDWARD RADICE

Edward Radice, CBE, former director of economic intelligence at the Ministry of Defence, died on November 8 aged 89. He was born on January 2, 1907.

TEDDY RADICE was a prominent member of the Foreign Office team led by Oliver Franks which attended the Marshall Plan conference in Paris half a century ago. A rising young Whitehall economist, he compiled the first draft report which was ultimately sent to Washington by the European beneficiaries of Marshall Aid — a task for which he was recommended by Isaiah Berlin.

Radice had made his mark among fellow economists before the war. His doctoral thesis at Oxford, *Savings in Great Britain 1922-35*, was held to be of seminal value, not only because of its contents — which tested some of the then emerging Keynesian hypotheses — but also because of the new econometric techniques which he adopted.

Some of his contemporaries believe that it would have won him still wider acclaim and established his academic reputation had not the Second World War then broken out. As it was, the changes which came about swiftly outlasted much of his work.

The war rearranged Radice's life and career in other ways, too. He had just settled into a new job with the League of Nations in Geneva when war broke out, forcing him to return to London, where he was snapped up by the Ministry of Economic Warfare. His work there on the economy of Hitler's Germany won him accelerated promotion and a postwar CBE at the age of only 39, making him one of the youngest ever to receive it.

Several universities tried to attract him after the war. But by then he had discovered an appetite for the heat and dust of Whitehall and he opted for the Foreign Office instead. It was while working there as an economic adviser that he became involved with the 1947 Paris conference.

He might well have stayed in the same specialist field had he not made what he came to regard as a tactical error by securing a move to the mainstream diplomatic service. He served in Frankfurt, liaising with the Americans in the postwar Control Commission in occupied Germany, but then found himself posted to Copenhagen. Two years as a counsellor in the British Embassy there were enough to convince him that the formalities of diplomatic life were not for him and in 1953 he successfully transferred to the Ministry of Defence.

Starting as economic adviser to the Joint Intelligence

Bureau, as it was then known, he climbed the ladder until he was made director of economic intelligence in 1966. He retired from Whitehall four years later.

Edward Albert Radice was born in London, only to leave when a few months old for India, where his father worked in the Indian Civil Service. The Radices had been in this country since Teddy's great-grandfather had fled to Dublin in the last century after taking part in a failed coup in Sardinia.

Teddy returned to this country with his parents at the start of the First World War and won a scholarship to Winchester (where he was part of the exceptional scholars' roll of 1920). One of his exact contemporaries in college was Richard Crossman, while two other pupils at school with



him were Hugh Gaitskill and Douglas Jay.

At Magdalen College, Oxford, where he was awarded an Exhibition, he took a first in mathematics followed by a first in Greats. He also became politically active as secretary of the Labour Club. He sided with the workers in the General Strike and was with the miners' leader A.J. Cook in Oxford's Corn Exchange when it was besieged by "Hoorsy Henrys" smashing the windows.

He worked briefly at a City bank on graduating but quickly grew bored and frustrated and left to become secretary of the New Fabian Research Bureau. His experience there helped to turn him into an economist.

He also stood as a Labour candidate for Brixton in 1931. In the election which followed Ramsay MacDonald's "defection to the Tories" (as he insisted on seeing the former Labour Prime Minister's decision to head a National Government), although defeated, he remained proud ever afterwards of his valiant attempt. He was offered seats with better prospects in later years, but by then had moved on to other things.

Radice took up a fellowship at Columbia University in

New York for two years from 1933 to 1935. While there, he collaborated with a colleague on a book, *An American Experiment*, which was a sympathetic look at the New Deal. He returned to Oxford to work on his doctoral thesis from 1935 to 1937, then went back to the United States for two years as an assistant professor of economics at Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut. At one time he was on the verge of taking out American citizenship.

On leaving the Ministry of Defence, he accepted a senior research fellowship at St Antony's College, Oxford, where he co-operated with an old colleague, the economist Michael Kaser, on the first two volumes of *The Economic History of Eastern Europe 1919-75*.

He also rejoined the Labour Party in retirement, having carefully preserved his neutrality as a civil servant. He even volunteered to lick envelopes for his local party at elections in the 1980s, to help to defeat Thatcherism — which he detested.

Despite his left-of-centre sympathies, however, Teddy Radice was essentially a rationalist who based all his conclusions on the evidence before him, without prejudice. He opposed strategic bombing during the war because he argued that it would not bring down the German economy. For similar reasons he advised against the sanctions imposed by the Wilson Government against Ian Smith's rebel regime in Rhodesia and warned ministers that the Biafran War would last much longer than they seemed to think. Economies, he always said, were more resilient than people thought — but went on to complain that governments did what was politically convenient anyway.

Colleagues often found Teddy Radice rather distant and difficult to know. But he displayed a lighter side when he relaxed and always got on surprisingly well with working people — or, for that matter, with the unemployed. Professionally, there was no doubting his ability. Not only was he awesomely clever but he was a brisk and efficient committee chairman who learnt how to operate the Whitehall machinery and make it work for him.

In 1936 he married a fellow economist, Joan Keeling, whose Fabian pedigree was even more impeccable than his own. Her brother had been christened Bernard Sidney — in honour of Bernard Shaw and Sidney Webb — and she and Radice met at a luncheon given for J.M. Keynes. She died in 1991 and Teddy Radice, who suffered a stroke following a fall, is survived by a son and a daughter.

ROBERT RAPOPORT

Robert Rapoport, co-founder of the Institute of Family and Environmental Research, died on November 4 aged 72. He was born on November 1, 1924.

ROBERT RAPOPORT devoted his life to a quiet, persistent and productive effort to understand people in all their diversity and to find out how they could live constructively together. This led him, after experiencing cultural diversity at first hand as a lieutenant in the US Army in China in the Second World War, to the study of social anthropology and to his Harvard doctorate in 1951.

Not himself religious, he had deep sympathy for other people's religious needs. His doctorate, and hence his first

book, was on the religious values of the Navahos; and, while his focus was on the Christian missions, his understanding of their traditional beliefs brought him the hon-

our of a Navaho blood brotherhood. He then taught at Cornell and Harvard until 1963, with a spell as research director at the Belmont Hospital in Sut-

ton, Surrey, in the mid-1950s. Here he developed his ideas on the relationship between the individual's health and the surrounding community, reflected in a book with the telling title *Community as the Doctor*. He returned to England for good in 1965, working first at the Tavistock Institute, then co-founding and co-directing the Institute of Family and Environmental Research with Rhona Rapoport, his wife and partner in every sense of the word. Increasingly, they concentrated on study of the family, fundamental to his concern for how people live together, but in the 1960s still far from fashionable as a subject for research.

Together the Rapoport's pioneered the study of the family in Britain, which was the subject of all his dozen books

written after settling in London. They both concentrated on the relations between the family and its environment; and they identified the relationships between husbands, wives and work as an important theme.

Their *Dual-Career Families*, undertaken at PEP, the predecessor of the Policy Studies Institute, became a classic work on the subject. Trendy Marxists were not best pleased by this study of middle-class couples, nor perhaps by the patient, non-ideological character of the work, based on intelligent insights supported by careful research.

Robert Rapoport then turned his attention to the role of the family and the community in bringing up children, on which he published two more books. Finally, sensitive as ever to emerging problems, he began to work on the impact of globalisation and the need to prepare children to survive in an increasingly chaotic world. He organised an international symposium in Budapest in 1994 and was on the point of completing a book on the subject when he died.

If physicians tend not to heal themselves, nor do social scientists always have the best of social relationships. But Robert Rapoport's quest for constructive social relations perfectly mirrored his own life. At work he was the best of colleagues. He employed his skill with the clarinet to play in small groups. He was the kindest, gentlest and most devoted family man. He leaves his widow, Rhona, a daughter and a son.



REGINALD CLOSE

Reginald Close, CBE, British Council official, died on November 4 aged 87. He was born on February 3, 1909.

A FOUNDER member of the British Council, Reg Close was known throughout the world as the author of a series of textbooks on the teaching of English as a foreign language. He was posted by the British Council all over the world and was appointed CBE in 1950 and advanced to CBE in Greece in 1966.

Reginald Arthur Close studied French and later education at King's College London, before going out to Shanghai where he took a post as education adviser to the Shanghai municipal council and also worked as a correspondent for *The Times*. It was while he was in Shanghai that he married Eleanor, whose father was a missionary, but four years later, with the 1938 Japanese invasion of China, Close and his wife were forced to leave.

Returning briefly to England he was recruited to the British Council by Lord Lloyd in 1939 and immediately sent out to strengthen the British Institute in Athens. There the poet Edwin Muir and the novelist Olivia Manning, as well as Reg Smith, later a distinguished producer for the BBC, were all on his staff.

But the television series which was subsequently made, based on Manning's *Balkan Trilogy*, about their time there was to cause him some pain. He felt that it had trivialised the role of the Athens British Institute which had helped to rally Athenian intellectuals to the British side during the war.

With the German attack on Greece, Close was forced to evacuate his staff to Alexandria and Cairo. But he himself was medically unfit for war service and the British Council transferred him to Chile instead.

His next posting was to Prague which he reached in time to witness the seizure of

power by the Communists. In spite of his previous experience of the Japanese he was sent to Tokyo in 1952 to open a British Council office. While there he recruited staff who remained the backbone of British Council cultural activities for many years afterwards as well as maintaining close links with Tokyo University. He had a firm supporter in the person of Princess Chichibu who also helped his wife in her work for the Animal Welfare Society.

The remainder of Close's British Council career was spent in London, most importantly in a purpose-built department in a purpose-built centre at 11 Portland Place. He helped to found the Kensington committee of friendship for overseas students which, reaching a membership of more than 800, was to form a pattern for the development of some 30 other such committees.

Reginald Close leaves his widow Eleanor and three sons.

PERSONAL COLUMN

SPECIALISTS YOU should write a book. Contact: WILLIAM BAKER , 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY JETLINE 01456 54111 AIRLINK WORLDWIDE 0171 713 7770 CAPITAL FLIGHTS 0500 223442	ANNOUNCEMENTS We will never forget you Please Remember THE ARMY BENEFIT FUND 0171 224 4884	PUBLIC NOTICES ELECTION OF DENTAL 0171 782 7344
HEALTH & FITNESS The only bath lift that lets you lie out full length 0500 223442	FLIGHTS DIRECTORY JETLINE 01456 54111 AIRLINK WORLDWIDE 0171 713 7770 CAPITAL FLIGHTS 0500 223442	ANNOUNCEMENTS We will never forget you Please Remember THE ARMY BENEFIT FUND 0171 224 4884	PUBLIC NOTICES ELECTION OF DENTAL 0171 782 7344

THE DANGERS OF OUR STREETS

To the Editor of The Times

Sir —
 The state of our streets is appalling. On all sides we hear of accidents daily which never appear in the Press at all, just because the traffic is in such a congested state there is no one to see. Two instances cross my mind at this moment. An elderly lady was knocked down by a passing taxicab; she was cut, bruised and shaken, and a kindly pedestrian helped her up and assisted her into a cab, and she was just capable of giving her address. No one else saw or took any notice, and the chauffeur went on calmly indifferent to the damage he had done. Another lady was knocked down at Piccadilly Circus and badly hurt. Again a Good Samaritan picked her up and placed her in a cab, and she was just able to articulate the name of a noted surgeon. No one else took any notice, the police directing the traffic saw

ON THIS DAY

November 15, 1913

The plight of pedestrians on busy streets was exercising readers, such as this Londoner, even before the First World War. She found policemen more helpful than taxi drivers.

nothing of the incident — in fact, it is well-nigh impossible for them to take their eyes off the packed mass of vehicles for a second. Why should I, a law-abiding citizen, have to stand waiting sometimes for ten minutes before I can cross the road safely? Why should I be told to "look slippy" by an impudent chauffeur? I have as much right to use the road as he has, but now ear-piercing honnings, savage glances, and volleys of abuse assail you on every side if you

NEWS

Troops will be allowed to use force

British troops sent to Zaire to ease the plight of more than a million starving refugees will be able to shoot their way out of trouble if they are intercepted, MPs were told.

Amid fears that the death toll could rise to 20,000 a day in Zaire refugee camps by next week, Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, told the Commons that if the objective was to reach the starving and if people stood in the way "then those people must be prepared to face the consequences of their action". Pages 1, 14, 15, 16

Major calms fears over freak inflation

John Major tried to dismiss Conservative worries over inflation by insisting that an unexpected surge last month, taking the headline rate from 2.1 to 2.7 per cent, was a statistical aberration. Page 1

Tax cuts not wanted

A majority of the public, including Conservative supporters, believe that Kenneth Clarke should not cut the basic rate of income tax in the Budget according to the latest MORI poll for The Times. Pages 1, 12

Dickensian slur

British resistance to an EU directive on working hours suggests a return to the sweet shops of Dickensian times, Jacques Santer, President of the EU Commission said. Page 2

Cold reception

The Duchess of York hit a cold Manhattan on the latest leg of a self-publicity tour, only to be told that she was "Britain's most unwelcome export since Mad Cow Disease". Page 3

So I'll finish

Mastermind, the television quiz show is to end in 1997, 25 years after it started with a question about a Picasso painting. Page 5

Kick killed girl

A single kick to the head by a 12-year-old girl was enough to kill Louise Allen, who was set upon as she tried to stop a fight on her way home from a fundfair. Page 7

Carey warning

The Archbishop of Canterbury issued a pre-election warning to clergy of the dangers of claiming special authority for their politics and economic opinions. Page 8

Full marks for long holidays

Cambridge dons were accused of putting their Tuscan holidays before trigonometry, when they rejected a proposal to add a week to the summer term. The university council had recommended an extension of the seven-week term to give students more time for revision. But opponents argued that academics would lose research time. Page 1

Trauma care

Seriously injured children admitted to hospital after accidents have a dramatically improved chance of surviving because of improvements in trauma care, researchers have found. Page 9

Escaping poverty

The growth in inequality has been reversed, with many of Britain's poorest people escaping from dire poverty, according to official statistics. Page 10

HIV surgeon works on

An HIV-positive surgeon was allowed to resume work. Health managers in Glasgow announced that Professor George Browning, an ear, nose and throat specialist, would be allowed to do "no risk" operations. Page 11

Blair's EU warning

Tony Blair will warn Jacques Chirac today that a Labour government would resist any further directives from Brussels on employment conditions. Page 12

Patten-Kohl talks

Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, tried to persuade Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to give Hong Kong citizens visa-free access. Page 13

Race riots

For the second time in a month, racial rioting erupted in St Petersburg, Florida, after a white policeman was cleared in the shooting that led to violence. Page 17



Joanne Norris, who was found by police in a van on the Turkish border with Bulgaria after being abducted from her home in Hertfordshire, was reunited with her boyfriend Brian Hedges yesterday. Her son and estranged husband live in Turkey.

BUSINESS

Economy: The annual rate of inflation jumped to 2.7 per cent from 2.1 per cent putting more pressure on Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, for a pre-election rise in interest rates. Page 25

British Telecom: is to double spending on advertising in an effort to defend its gradually shrinking market share. Page 25

Credit sale: Shares in Great Universal Stores rose by 10 per cent after the catalogue group took over an American credit information company for £1 billion. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index fell 1.1 points to close at 3925.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 91.3 to 91.9 after a rise from \$1.6542 to \$1.6635 and from DM2.4921 to DM2.5102. Page 28

SPORT

Rugby union: Wales have included Jonathan Davies in their squad for the match against Australia. He last played for them eight years ago before moving over to rugby league. Page 48

Football: The threat of a players' strike was finally laid to rest when the Football League agreed to make an annual payment of £1.35 million, for five years, to their association. Page 45

Tennis: Sam Smith, top seed in the women's singles, was beaten by Claire Taylor, a player ranked 152 places below her, in the British national championships at Telford. Page 46

Motor racing: Damon Hill was unhurt after crashing into a concrete wall in Japan. Page 48

ARTS

Nose-blower: The Scottish-based Communicado company put Rostand's couplets through a Glasgow miner in their bracing production of *Cyrano de Bergerac*. Page 33

Nail-biting: So you wanna be a rock'n'roll star? Get yourself a television series and follow in the footsteps of Jimmy Nail, Robson and Jerome et al. Page 34

Greased Lightning: The Lightning Seeds may not be prime movers in the Britpop scene, but their latest release, *Dizzy Heights*, distils the usual brand of highly hummable tunes. Page 35

Singing Blake: The American William Bolcom is bringing *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, his three-hour choral work that sets Blake's poetry to music. Page 36

TOMORROW

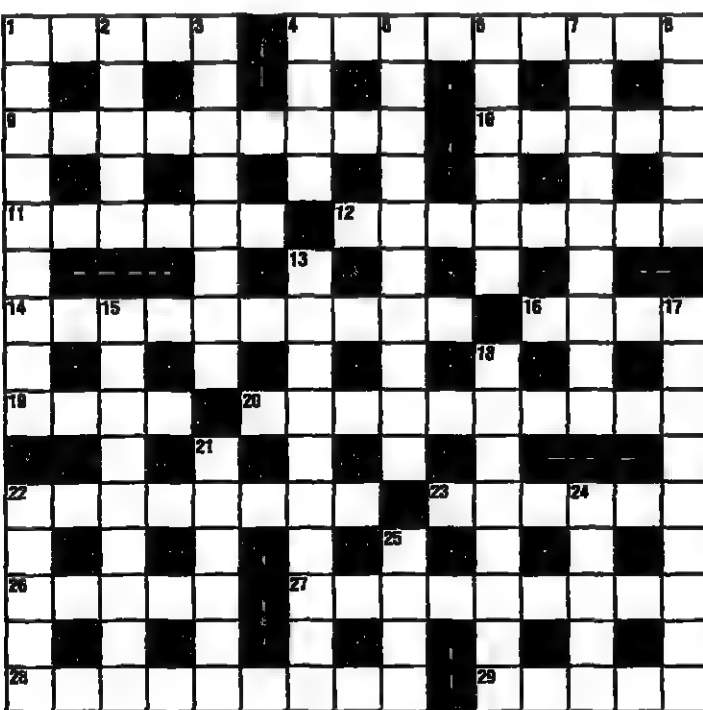
IN THE TIMES

BOOK OFFER
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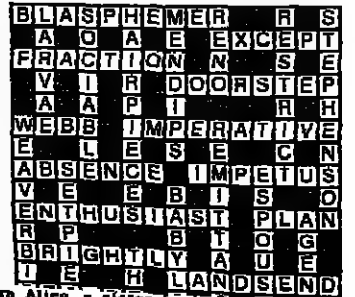


THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,326



- ACROSS**
- 1 Bluish-grey carpet (5).
 - 4 Water clock breaking down in dry places (4).
 - 9 Produced rose (6,5).
 - 10 Contract returning police force to its territory (5).
 - 11 American who wrote essay in verse (6).
 - 12 Boast about a post (8).
 - 14 Doubt - when one has it, it is unsettling (10).
 - 16 Missile hit pest (4).
 - 19 Type of skink, we hear (4).
 - 20 Temporal message archbishop is to put out? Quite the reverse (4,6).
 - 22 This sauce suited hard-hearted Louis originally (8).
 - 23 Stub female dropped before a programme (6).
 - 26 Sudden blow disordered thatch (5).
- DOWN**
- 1 Prepare to sell, frame and betray (3,2,4).
 - 2 A lake in a high, inaccessible place (5).
 - 3 Deplete river transport that's old (8).
 - 4 Doctor gives firm approval (4).
 - 5 More insurance for one operating in the field (5,5).
 - 6 Upset class, making mistake (4-2).
 - 7 Can the old become involved in a lot of events? (9).
 - 8 The drier of two rivers (5).
 - 13 Walk out over hill and fell (5,4).
 - 15 Rifle drill, for example, is tough stuff (9).
 - 17 Courage of everyone taking part in stand (9).
 - 18 Flighty vain girl - but chaste (8).
 - 21 More offensive in private (6).
 - 22 Sweep given medal, thus content (5).
 - 24 Name, say, given to American drink (5).
 - 25 Pure water (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,325



Times Two Crossword, page 48

AA INFORMATION

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: Aberdeen airport, 13°C (55°F); lowest day temp: Mac Lise, Reskington, Gloucestershire, 5°C (41°F); highest rainfall: Cape Wrath, Highland, 0.47in; highest sunshine: Exeter, Devon, 8.3hr.

FORECAST

General: Western England and Wales will remain mostly cloudy with drizzle at times. Central and eastern areas, after clearance of overnight mist and fog patches, should be dry with bright or sunny spells.

Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mainly cloudy with light drizzle. The far north will have persistent rain later. Central and eastern parts of Scotland should be mostly dry with bright or sunny spells developing.

London, SE England, Central S England, Channel Isles: It will be dry with bright or sunny spells developing. Wind light to moderate east to northeast. Maximum temperature 8C to 9C (48F to 48F).

E Anglia, Midlands, E England, Central N England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central

Highlands, Moray Firth: It will be mainly dry with bright or sunny spells developing. Wind light and variable mainly south to southwest. Maximum temperature 8C to 10C (48F to 50F).

SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: It will be rather cloudy with patchy drizzle but there will be some drier clearer interludes in places. Wind light and variable. Maximum temperature 9C to 11C (48F to 52F).

NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: It will be cloudy with rain becoming persistent later. Wind west to southwest moderates to fresh. Maximum temperature 9C to 10C (48F to 50F).

Outlook for the weekend: Cloud and rain sinking southwards followed by showers, wintery in the north.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Hyndley I.	7.5	-	10	50	s	Southsea	8.0	-	10	50	c
Henry Bay	7.4	-	9	46	s	Stornoway	8.1	0.15	11	52	d
Herris	5.9	-	11	52	s	Swanage	8.0	0.07	11	52	d
Hilbre	4.5	0.8	8	46	s	Torquay	0.2	0.01	10	46	c
Hurleston	4.5	0.8	8	46	s	Tynemouth	0.8	0.07	11	52	c
Isle of Man	-	0.02	12	54	c	Torquay	0.2	0.01	10	50	c
Jersey	8.0	0.01	11	52	c	Tynemouth	-	0.05	11	52	c
Jura	1.9	0.14	12	54	c	Verdun	0.2	0.01	10	50	c
Leeds	0.06	10	50	d		Weymouth	1.2	-	11	52	c
Lewes	0.06	10	50	d		Weymouth	1.2	-	11	52	c
Lewes	0.06	10	50	d		Weymouth	1.2	-	11	52	c

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY

BUSINESS

Changes at
Lloyd's put
jobs at risk
PAGE 26

EDUCATION

Why are we sliding
down the league
in mathematics?
PAGES 37-39

SPORT

Wales recall Davies
to arms in search
of past glories
PAGES 41-48

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
45, 47

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15 1996

BT says it's good to spend more on adverts

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM is to double its spending on advertising in an effort to defend its gradually shrinking market share.

BT would not provide details of its new advertising push, though analysts said the current budget is thought to exceed £100 million. Robert Brace, finance director, said: "It's a lot of money and it's going up. The advertising is working and we're being more aggressive."

Media executives said that BT has spent £91 million on TV, radio and advertising spots in the past year. That, however, excludes direct-mail campaigns and the costs of producing the advertisements. Doubling that figure would make BT one of the top five advertisers, along with Unilever and Procter & Gamble.

The company, where Peter Bonfield is chief executive, was encouraged by the success of the "It's good to talk" campaign and believes it is holding the line against the cable-telephony companies. In the half year to September 30, turnover from inland telephone calls rose 2.7 per cent, to £2.44 billion, while volume, on a year-on-year basis, grew 7 per cent.

James Ross, at Hoare Govett, said the gains represented a remarkable achievement: "Inland call volume growth seems to be headed for double-digit growth for the first time since the late 1980s."

Revenue increases from inland calls, mobile communications — BT owns 60 per cent of Celfnet, the second largest mobile-phone company — and its fledgling European businesses helped to boost turnover 4.5 per cent, to £7.36 billion, in the half year to September 30.

But pre-tax profits, weighed down by a doubling in redundancy charges to £235 million and the £60 million premium paid on the repurchase of government bonds, slipped £7 million to £1.6 billion. Earnings per share were 16.3p (16.5p). The interim dividend, payable on February 17, rises 6 per cent, to 7.9p. BT has forecast total dividend payments of 19.85p, up 6.1 per cent for the year to March 31. Shareholders will also receive a 35p special dividend even if BT's proposed \$20 billion takeover of MCI collapses. BT shares rose 9p to 579.5p.

Pennington, page 27



Bonfield: line held



Don Carty, left, president of AA, and Bob Ayling, chief executive of BA, at the time they announced the proposed link-up between the two carriers

Clarke faces clash over inflation leap

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A SHOCKINGLY large rise in British inflation in October has set the stage for a damaging clash between the Chancellor and the Bank of England over interest rates in the run-up to the election.

Headline inflation leapt to 2.7 per cent from 2.1 per cent in September, while the underlying rate jumped to 3.3 per cent from 2.9 per cent, making the Government's target of 2.5 per cent or less seem even more difficult to hit. The underlying rate is now at its highest level since September 1993.

These rises came in spite of the fact that prices were unchanged overall between September and October. The annual rates jumped by virtue of prices having fallen sharply in October 1995.

Nevertheless, there was widespread disappointment in the City that a plunge in industry's prices over the past few months has failed to translate more quickly into lower prices on the high street.

The gap between the attitudes of the Treasury and the Bank of England on monetary policy appears to be widening. The Bank was sufficiently worried that yesterday's figures would provoke a negative market reaction that officials are believed to have telephoned some City economists, particularly those with relatively low forecasts for October inflation, to warn them that the figures would be bad.

While the Bank tried to preempt a negative market reaction before the event, the Government was working hard afterwards to put a positive gloss on the figures. John Major, the Prime Minister, said that the increase in inflation was "a statistical aberration".

The Chancellor and Treasury officials pointed out that the annual rates had gone up only because last October saw the largest fall in retail prices in any October since the war, whereas this October's figures

were only the fourth best since the war.

The Bank's efforts to warn traders beforehand, coupled with some good inflation numbers from America which boosted US stocks and bonds, meant that the negative reaction in London markets was only short-lived.

The FT-SE 100 index closed only 0.8 of a point lower at 3,926.1, having slumped as low as 3,904. British government bonds, which would normally react very badly to such a sizeable jump in inflation, actually ended the day almost a percentage point higher. The pound leapt, ending at 91.9 on its trade-weighted index compared with 91.3 on Wednesday.

Short sterling futures, the best guide to market interest rate expectations, fell before ending the day above their lows. Closing levels priced in a rise in base rates of between a quarter of a point and half a point. Base rates were raised a

quarter of a point to 6 per cent at the end of last month.

The Chancellor next looks horns with the Bank on December 11. It seems likely the Bank will push for a further monetary tightening given yesterday's figures and this week's news of another hefty fall in unemployment. However, the Treasury's efforts to play down yesterday's figures suggest that another rate rise may not necessarily be forthcoming from Mr Clarke.

The main culprits behind October's jump in inflation were housing and motor costs. Last October saw a sharp fall in mortgages, house prices and home contents insurance premiums against rises this year for mortgages and house prices and only a small fall in premiums. Petrol prices and motor insurance premiums were up this year against big falls a year ago.

Pennington, page 27
Anastole Kalatsky, page 29

Airline link-up flies into EU storm

By JON ASHWORTH

THE European Commission has launched a formal investigation into the planned link-up between British Airways and American Airlines. The Commission has written to the airlines, saying that the proposed alliance does not appear to be in the interests of consumers. They have 60 days in which to respond.

The move prompted speculation that a decision on whether to refer the proposal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission would now be frozen for at least two months. This was swiftly denied. Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, changed the rules in July to enable UK authorities to study the proposed alliance under EU competition rules. The move was designed to reduce the risk of discrepancies arising from two parallel investigations.

Commentators suggested yesterday that Mr Lang would be "powerless" to pass judgment on BA-AA while the EU was awaiting responses. However, this was denied by the Department of Trade and Industry, which said the move would have no bearing on the timing of any announcement. Mr Lang was simply required to communicate his decision to the Commission.

The Office of Fair Trading passed a report on the planned alliance to Mr Lang early last month. He has since been considering a referral to the MMC.

BA said that it was confident of satisfying the EC. Market research indicated that consumers favoured the link-up by a margin of seven to one, it said. A spokesman added: "We are confident that, once we put it to the EC, [the alliance] will go ahead."

Letters, page 29

Society in a spin as data hits market

By ANNE ASHWORTH

THE money market turmoil caused by the higher inflation figures caused the Yorkshire Building Society to execute a sharp volte-face.

Mid-morning, the society announced a new range of discounted and fixed-rate mortgage offers. However, within hours, it said that the launch had been suspended.

In a statement, the society said that "fluctuating swap prices" had prompted the move. When a lender wants to put together a fixed-rate package, it raises funds in the money market, but it will often sell on or "swap" this fixed-rate liability with a financial institution.

The main culprits behind October's jump in inflation were housing and motor costs. Last October saw a sharp fall in mortgages, house prices and home contents insurance premiums against rises this year for mortgages and house prices and only a small fall in premiums. Petrol prices and motor insurance premiums were up this year against big falls a year ago.

Pennington, page 27
Anastole Kalatsky, page 29

GUS shares surge after US acquisition

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SHARES in Great Universal Stores surged 10 per cent yesterday after it revealed that it had dipped into its huge cash pile and bought Experian, a US information services group, for £1 billion.

The US company will be merged with GUS's information subsidiary, CCN, a market leader in the UK and continental Europe. GUS, whose shares closed 57.5p higher, at 6.48p, is paying £600 million out of its £1.2 billion cash pile, while the rest will come from fixed-rate, medium-term borrowings.

This leaves GUS, which is chiefly a catalogue retailer and owner of Burberry and Scotch House, with half its cash pile and borrowings of more than

£450 million. Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, the new chairman, indicated that the remaining available cash may be used for a further acquisition. "The impression I had from the City was that they weren't happy with the steady accumulation of cash without any acquisitions being made," he said.

The acquisition should be earnings enhancing within the first year. CCN currently accounts for about 7 per cent of GUS's profits. After merging with Experian, which had sales of around \$370 million and operating profits of \$114 million last year, it will account for up to 20 per cent.

Tempos, page 28

Scottish Widows in Royal Bank link-up

By MARIANNE CURRIE

ROYAL Bank of Scotland yesterday announced plans to link up with Scottish Widows, the mutual life and pensions company, but denied planning a full takeover or merger bid.

However, the move fuelled speculation that Scottish Widows might eventually become part of the bank, which owns Direct Line, the telephone insurer. RBS shares rose 14.5p to 493p. Scottish Widows has been tipped as likely to join the stock market.

George Mathewson, RBS chief executive, said it was impossible to rule out a future merger, but said: "At present, we have no intention of doing that." He added: "Scottish Widows is a mutual company and its customers have been

buying into that whole ethos. I believe there is a risk in breaking that arrangement."

Scottish Widows will design products, administer pensions and manage investments for Royal Scottish Assurance (RSA), the RBS subsidiary life company. The mutual will own at least 20 per cent of RSA and an unspecified stake in Direct Line as part of a joint venture in life insurance. The exact size of the stakes will be finalised in the next few weeks.

Dr Mathewson said that "a handful" of jobs would be lost in Scottish Widows. In February the mutual insurer said that it intended to shed 700 jobs in a cost-cutting exercise.

Tempos, page 28

Big Mac poised to join Texaco war effort

By CARL MORTSHED

TEXACO is mounting a big push to gain market share in the UK petrol retailing market and its secret weapon is burgers, doughnuts and coffee. The American oil company has been in talks with McDonald's and has plans to expand rapidly the number of petrol station sites that contain McDonald's restaurants, and deliver through existing

Texaco has been hurt badly by the petrol price wars. Like its peers it suffered losses as a result of Esso's Pricewatch campaign and the struggle by the oil companies to prevent customers from filling up their tanks at the supermarket. Roger Ebert, managing director of Texaco's downstream business, admits that there were times when its petrol stations were making

Mr Ebert, who arrived at Texaco's London headquarters in January, believes now is the time to expand. Texaco has about an 8 per cent share of the petrol retailing market in the UK and wants to move that quickly into double digits. This week he met senior executives from McDonald's who are keen to develop an existing relationship, and Mr Ebert has identified 40

Texaco is mounting its push at a time of turmoil in the industry. The oil company has a huge refinery in Wales but Britain is awash in cheap petrol and Texaco sells a large part of its product overseas. Mr Ebert believes that more station sites will become available as the industry consolidates, and that food will be a draw. "I see people at my local station in the morning. They have cars, they have a

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Football float to raise £12m

Peter Reid, the team manager of Sunderland Football Club, is to make more than £2 million from the club's stock market flotation, announced yesterday. Mr Reid will also have £7 million to buy players.

The club plans to raise up to £12 million in next month's flotation, which will value the club at between £40 million and £45 million. It proposes to include in its prospectus an estimate of trading for the year ending next May, showing turnover up from £7 million to between £12 million and £14 million, and a trading loss of £450,000 turned into a profit of at least £1 million.

Revenues up at MAID

MAID, the online information company, said that its monthly usage revenues exceeded £1 million for the first time in October. The company's third-quarter results showed its total revenues, including new subscriptions, 64 per cent ahead of the same period last year. MAID signed up 825 new corporate customers during the quarter. However, the company is still losing money, a £2.4 million loss in the quarter takes the nine-month total to £5.7 million.

Steel deal

The Government yesterday claimed some success in modifying a European code on state aid for the steel industry. The industry is subject to the European Coal and Steel Community Treaty, which bans all state aid. However, the Steel Aid Code, starting at next year, permits state aid in limited circumstances, such as for new environmental standards and some research and development.

Ladbroke lift

Ladbroke, the hotels and betting shop group, issued an upbeat trading statement yesterday, saying that third-quarter profits were "comfortably ahead" of last year. Both main businesses performed well, but property profits fell sharply.



Lloyd's of London wants to stand out in a crowd with structural changes inside the organisation to build a better partnership with the market

Shake-up at Lloyd's threatens to put hundreds of jobs at risk

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S OF LONDON yesterday announced sweeping changes to its central administrative structure, potentially putting hundreds of jobs at risk. The reforms, designed to make Lloyd's more transparent and accountable, are part of a long-term drive to make the market more competitive.

The Corporation of Lloyd's employs 2,400 people, including 415 contractors and consultants, but it was unclear yesterday how many jobs were at risk. Ron Sandler, chief executive of Lloyd's, admitted redundancies were likely, but

would not be drawn on numbers. Mr Sandler said the changes, which will see the corporation split into five new business units, were part of a much wider process of reform aimed at improving the competitiveness of the market place.

Mr Sandler said: "These structural changes are designed to apply greater commercial discipline and align the corporation more closely with the business objectives of the market. We need to build a greater sense of partnership between the corporation and

the market to ensure Lloyd's continued prosperity."

The move comes after the successful implementation of Lloyd's Reconstruction and Renewal (R&R) plan. From January 1, the corporation will be restructured into five new business units. Members' Services will include the administration of names' funds and other services; Insurance Services will embrace Lloyd's policy signing office, the claims office, and systems; Facilities Management will embrace catering, purchasing and building management;

and Business Development will include negotiation of new licences, and brand promotion.

A fifth unit will cover North America, which provides Lloyd's with 30 per cent of its business. The unit, based in New York, is headed by Peter Lane, and will deal with regulatory matters and handle promotional issues.

The units will have to prepare their own business plans, and will each be accountable to a user board, comprising four or five representatives from the market, together with

senior Lloyd's managers. They, in turn, will answer to the Lloyd's market board, which will be freed up to focus on strategic and long-term issues.

A number of other existing corporation functions — finance, strategic planning, human resources, communications and legal services — will continue to be provided centrally. The structure of Lloyd's regulatory division will be unchanged, pending the outcome of a review which is due to be completed by mid-1997.

Sun and Chubb sever link A&L shuts door on rebels

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

SUN ALLIANCE, now part of Royal SunAlliance, the UK's largest insurer, and Chubb Corporation, its American partner, are to sever a 114-year relationship. RSA will lose about £210 million in premiums but will retain its 5 per cent Chubb shareholding. RSA said it might look for further US acquisitions, or worldwide, although not in the short term.

In February Chubb announced it was winding down a trading relationship with Sun Alliance, which dated from 1882, amid speculation that it believed Sun was deriving the greater

benefit. The unravelling of the partnership was originally scheduled to take three years, but has been brought forward after Sun Alliance's merger with Royal Insurance this summer.

Twelve months ago the reciprocal reinsurance arrangements were reduced by one third and will be terminated from January 1 1997. Chubb earned a projected £120 million from premiums through the arrangement this year. RSA has considerable US business through Royal USA, Royal's US subsidiary, which had net premiums written of £1.05 billion in 1995.

THE Alliance & Leicester Building Society is refusing to meet representatives of an action group campaigning against its proposed flotation.

Patrick Mountain, a retired agent of the society, set up the action group in protest at the way in which shares will be distributed. Under the scheme, most qualifying members will get 250 shares worth £1,000 in total. Other share and cash distribution schemes in the building society sector have based payouts on the amount each member has invested. Mr Mountain feels that he was misled by the society

into leaving £150,000 saved, in expectation of a bigger windfall. The Building Societies Ombudsman said that it has received 104 complaints about the flotation.

Members of the action group have threatened to withdraw £50 million from their accounts next month unless the float terms are changed.

An Alliance & Leicester spokesman said that the society felt that it had exhausted the discussion on remuneration for members. The society claims that most members have less than £2,000 invested.

Perpetual says it is approaching peak

PERPETUAL, the unit trust company that has grown rapidly in recent years, gave warning yesterday that it would be hard pushed to make much improvement on its latest results. Reporting a 46 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £54.4 million, David Mossop, chief executive, said: "We can do better than this, but I don't think we can do much better."

The company, which has won a string of awards for its investment performance, believes the flow of new money from investors could be checked by next year's general election, by possible stock market weakness and by the introduction of Open Ended Investment Companies (OEICs). In the year to September 30, funds under management rose 40 per cent to £6.6 billion. Personal equity plans on behalf of more than 400,000 private investors make up £2.5 billion of the total. Perpetual said its share of the UK unit trust market has risen to 4.2 per cent. Perpetual plans to pay a final dividend of 38p on January 13, lifting the total payout 42.5 per cent to 57p. Undiluted earnings were 135.4p a share (94.7p). Perpetual's shares fell by marginally more than £1 to £22.25.

DuPont to close plant

DUPONT, the chemicals company, is to close its nylon plant in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, with the loss of 450 jobs over the next two years. This move is part of a worldwide restructuring of the group's nylon operations involving the loss of almost 3,000 jobs. DuPont said the programme was designed to make its nylon fibre business the most efficient and highest-quality producer worldwide. It is expected to cut costs by £420 million annually. The company said as many jobs cuts as possible would be through voluntary schemes and natural wastage. The Doncaster closure is scheduled for early 1999.

Exeter chief's £2.7m gain

IAN HENDERSON, chief executive of Exeter Investments, which he founded in 1986, will net £2.7 million when he brings his company to the market next month, in addition to a shareholding worth £3.9 million. The company will raise £1.5 million to repay bank debt. Exeter now runs subsidiaries dealing with asset management, unit trusts and secretarial services for fund managers. In the year to September 30 it made pre-tax profits of £356,000 on revenue of £2.86 million. The shares are being placed by Greig Middleton at 92p, valuing the company at £2.74 million.

Sears sale raises £80m

SEARS, the retail group, has raised £80 million from the sale of its half-share in the St Enoch Shopping Centre in Glasgow to DespaFoods, a German property fund based in Frankfurt. Liam Strong, the Sears chief executive, said: "In the light of the group's cash resources the board will be reviewing options available for returning any surplus cash to shareholders in an appropriate manner." The Church Commissioners for England, which held the remaining 50 per cent interest in the shopping centre, has also sold its stake to the German fund.

Adtranz job losses

BRITAIN'S leading train manufacturer has axed nearly 200 jobs in Doncaster because of a shortfall in orders after privatisation. Adtranz said it was "extremely disappointed" to announce the redundancies of 188 staff at the South Yorkshire freight maintenance depot. The company bought the depot from British Rail last year. Since then, the number of staff has fallen from around 600 to about 150. The job losses are believed to have been triggered by a reduction in work for English, Welsh & Scottish Railway, the American-owned freight company that is the depot's biggest customer.

RIT asset value rises

RIT Capital Partners, Lord Rothschild's investment trust, increased net asset value 3.1 per cent to 292.2p a share in the six months to September 30. This compares with a 5.5 per cent rise in the FT all-share index over the same period. The value of the total investment portfolio increased to £727.9 million from £579.6 million. Quoted equities accounted for 60 per cent of the portfolio and unquoted companies for 20 per cent. Pre-tax profits were unchanged at £2.4 million. Shares in RIT were unmoved at 239p.

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Italy Lira	2025	Bank of Greece	1.80
Japan Yen	100.80	Bank of Korea	1.80
Malta	0.629	Bank of Portugal	1.80
Netherlands Gld	2.254	Bank of Belgium	1.80
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Straws blowing in the windfall

THE more one opposes the unethical, if perfectly legal, notion of a windfall tax on utilities, the more one despairs of the behaviour of those companies on whom it will be levied.

The windfall tax, if it emerges under Labour and if — let us not forget that if — Labour wins the election, will not be described as retrospective taxation because Brussels does not like this. It will be a tax on unacceptably high bank balances, not a tax on the earlier profits that led to this state of affairs. Put this way, it is clear this is a distinction without a difference.

Retrospective taxation is not illegal anyway, because, ultimately, nothing is. Parliament can vote for such without hindrance, just as Parliament can vote to bring back hanging, the gold standard or 80 per cent income tax — for everyone. The Americans who have bought into the electricity industry would probably sue, but precious little good it would do them in the courts because British constitutional law says government is elected to govern.

The Labour tax would do untold damage to inward investment and to big transatlantic mergers such as those that British Airways and British Telecom are now embarked

upon. This last is hardly reasonable; a Labour utilities tax was already predictable when the American buying started more than a year ago. But it will play well in terms of domestic US politics if reciprocal action to a tax grab is seen to be taken.

Yesterday, PowerGen, classed by Labour as a monopolistic utility for some strange reason, chose to distribute as much as £400 million to shareholders in the form of a share buyback, the fourth repurchase in the company's six years as a quoted company. South West Water, which has the power to carry out a similar exercise on behalf of its shareholders, liked the dividend by 20 per cent. It is tempting to see such largesse as anticipating a utilities tax. But look a little deeper than that.

The level of dividend cover and gearing that was thought acceptable when the utilities were privatised turns out, with the benefit of hindsight, to have been over-cautious. In other words, the companies were sold too cheap — we all know that. The

City, which bought them too cheap, now says this means payouts should be jacked up to compensate for this — two slices of pie, please. Yet in this the institutions are only doing what Gordon Brown and Labour intend, except a little earlier.

But ask yourself three questions. Is Labour really going to hold off from windfall taxes because the companies have spent the money first? Is it proper corporate governance, if you know the tax is looming, to put the balance sheet in such a state that the company is in danger of collapse if it is levied? And what happens if the Tories win?

When it's good to be small

BRITISH TELECOM'S financial results were unremarkable except on two points. The "It's good to talk" TV ads starring the otherwise laconic Bob Hoskins have proved good value; customers are picking up the phone more often and talking

PENNINGTON



longer. Revenue from inland calls is climbing in spite of growing competition from cable.

The other point was less encouraging. International phone calls, BT's most profitable business by a long shot, are down, and by BT's own admission will continue to fall. The Government is set to break the BT-Mercury duopoly by awarding international licences to almost 50 new entrants. What is more, discount operators such as call-back services, which route international calls through the low-cost US, are proliferating. A free-for-all is in the making.

The same thing is happening on the other side of the Atlantic.

The 1996 Telecommunications Act allows long-distance and local phone companies to compete in each other's markets. The golden era of AT&T, MCI and Sprint, the three giants that held a hammerlock on the long-distance market, is about to end.

Why, then, did BT just agree pay more than \$20 billion for MCI? The deal makes sense in that the merger of the two creates a closed trans-Atlantic loop, meaning they will not have to pay other operators to complete their calls at the other end. As a result, they can retain more of the international call revenue for themselves. But this strategy can only buy so much time.

BT and MCI, for all their slimming efforts, are still big, old-time phone companies with enormous fixed costs. Since distance is quickly becoming irrelevant in determining the cost of calls, the time will come when BT and MCI cannot afford to drop their prices further without a radical restructuring. IBM is a good parallel, because Big Blue fell from grace when nimble new

companies such as Compaq introduced inexpensive alternatives to the mainframe computer.

What goes up must come down

INFLATION has risen sharply, but prices have stayed the same. The Chancellor is quite right to point out that prices were unchanged between September and October, and that the shockingly sharp rise in annual rates of headline and core inflation was down to wonderful figures a year ago, the best inflation performance, indeed, since the war. But despite the truth of this argument, the fact remains that yesterday's figures mean the Bank of England will be itching for another rate rise.

It is certainly disappointing that plunging producer prices have not fed more rapidly into lower prices on the high street. But, amid the mounting rates hysteria, let us put a counter argument. The main culprits for

October's ghastly numbers were petrol and house prices. Both phenomena are likely to be temporary. Oil prices have risen because of supply problems and are not a sign of rising commodity price pressures. House prices are up because confidence has finally been returning.

But the sudden disappearance of good fixed-rate mortgage deals after the recent hike in base rates shows how swiftly that could end if base rates are pushed even higher. Then factor in a populist cut in booze duties in the Budget to counter cross-Channel competition, cheer voters up — and depress retail prices. Then the latest inflation scare will prove to be short-lived.

Catch-48

HERE is a modest catch-22. You are a businessman rightly keen to avoid the imposition of the 48-hour week. Your opinion is sought by the media. Do you say, as some have, "No, it would never affect me anyway, I am a considerate employer and no one works that long here." This paints you in the best light, but it gives you no reason to oppose Brussels. Or do you say, "We can't have this. It would cripple my business — I make them all work 60 hours or more?"

Limelight offer price set at 175p

SHARES of Limelight, the fitted furniture manufacturer and retailer, have been priced at 175p, at the bottom of the indicated range, valuing the company at £175 million (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The offering will raise almost £60 million for Stephen Boler, former chairman and now a non-executive director. No new money for the company is being raised.

Trading begins today. Some 62.15 million of the 65.05 million shares on offer have been allotted under a placing, 2.86 million under an intermediaries offer, and the balance under an employee offer.

PowerGen payout lifts buybacks above £1bn

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

POWERGEN will shortly top the £1 billion mark in cash it has paid out to buy back its own shares since privatisation (see Pennington this page).

Yesterday it announced its second buyback this year, and the fourth since privatisation. When the plan to repurchase 10 per cent of the company's equity is complete, PowerGen will have rebought just under 30 per cent of its shares.

Earlier this year it paid out £346 million in a similar buyback justified by the company's profit on the sale of a stake in Midlands Electricity. However, the one-off gain on that sale was £69 million,

which yesterday the company said was about the same figure as it expects to write off on its exposure to take-or-pay gas contracts.

The latest buyback has been initiated by the sale of power stations to Eastern, instigated by the regulator in February 1994 and completed this summer. In spite of the scale of its buybacks — at yesterday's share price PowerGen could spend £370 million this time round — the company insisted yesterday that it did not fall into one of the target areas for a Labour government's imposition of a windfall tax. Ed Wallis, the chairman, said

PowerGen did not fit the definition of a monopolistic utility that was price-regulated and had enjoyed excessive benefits from slack regulation.

Peter Hickson, finance director, admitted the balance sheet could sustain a windfall hit but that did not mean the company would not suffer from such an impact. Analysts are calculating a windfall tax on PowerGen of about £200 million.

PowerGen lifted underlying profits by 4 per cent, to £138 million, in the six months to September 30, after removing its one-off £69 million gain from its sale of a 21 per cent

stake in Midlands Electricity to Avon Energy.

The company said that it was close to ending its problems with Kinetics, its loss-making joint gas venture with Conoco, and expects to take a hit of no more than £59 million on its exposure to take-or-pay gas contracts.

Overseas operations, in which PowerGen is increasing its activities, did not deliver a contribution to profits, with none expected in the short-term. The interim dividend, payable on December 20, was lifted 20 per cent, to 7.8p.

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South West Water vows to follow up leap in dividend

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH WEST WATER, which escaped two takeover bids last month after a government veto, yesterday joined the ranks of utilities making big increases in dividends with a 20 per cent rise in its interim payment to 11.8p a share (see Pennington, this page).

The company also set out a stall for future dividend rises, saying that its final dividend would rise by 20 per cent and that growth thereafter would be 8 per cent.

South West, whose customers pay the highest water bills in the country, also said that it would buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares if it considered it to be in the best interests of its shareholders.

The company, which had

been targeted by Wessex Water and Severn Trent, attracted the wrath of Labour, which condemned it for making profits of £257 a minute. Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, further criticised the state of the industry that had led South West to spend £4.9 million fighting takeover moves from rival water companies.

Ken Hill, South West's finance director, said that the company's results showed sparkling growth in the face of two hostile bids.

The company would not say yesterday whether it had received other takeover approaches. Although a merger with another water company has been ruled out, a takeover

by an electricity company could be a possibility.

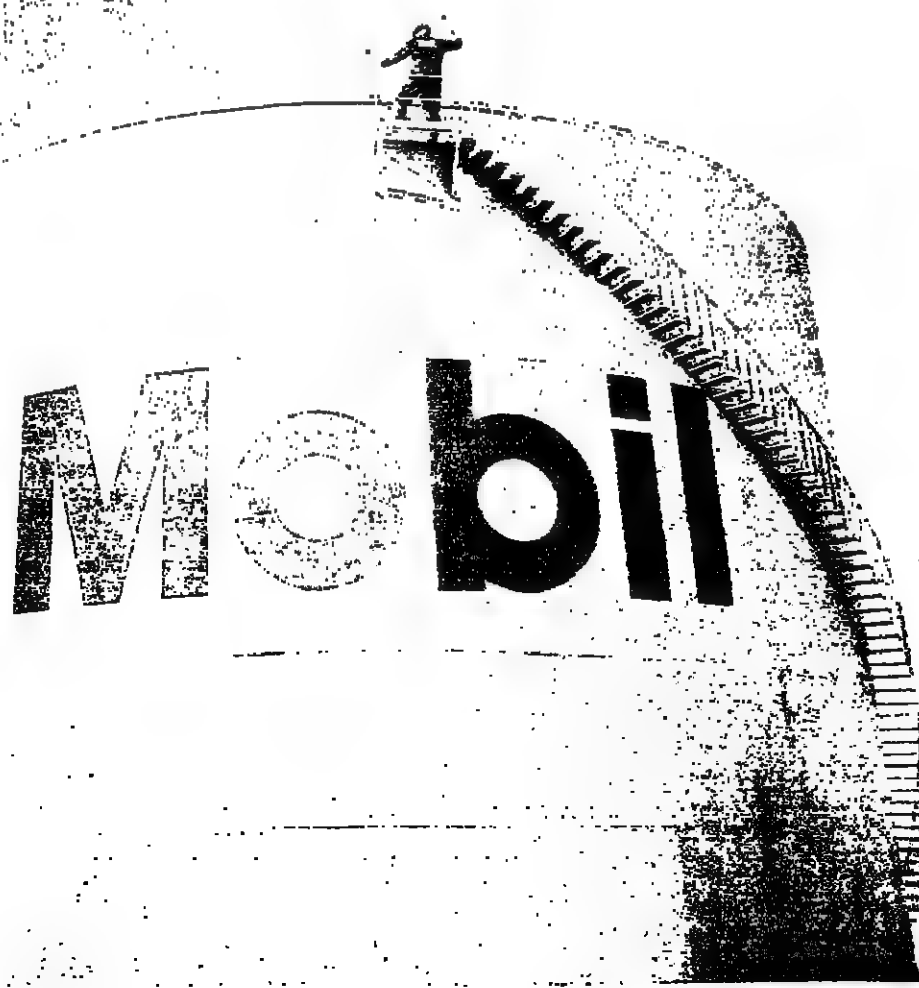
South West has paid a £15 customer dividend, which will cost the company £10 million, although this charge will not appear until the final results.

South West's interim pre-tax profits to September 30 climbed to £72.9 million, from £54 million in the previous year. The figures exceeded the expectations of analysts, who had largely been working in a range of £60 million to £65 million.

Operating profits from non-regulated activities rose by 50 per cent, to £46.7 million. Non-regulated activities now account for nearly 27 per cent of overall profits.

The interim dividend is payable on April 7.

Have you heard?



Well, we couldn't keep it quiet for long. BP and Mobil are launching a joint venture, all across Europe. We'll be starting in the UK, at the beginning of November.

It means bringing every Mobil station under the BP umbrella, which will give us a network of almost 2,000 service stations in the UK alone.

With nearly 8,000 stations all across Europe,

it's a massive programme. We're confident that, by the end of '98, it will be complete.

It's a huge effort, but we know it's worth it to give our customers a better deal.

We believe the combination of Mobil lubricants and BP fuels is an unbeatable offer.

We aim to set the standards in friendly, efficient service.

Together with our commitment to excellence and competitive prices, our new network will really be offering the best of both worlds.

A further example of this will be Mobil's hugely popular Argos Premier Points scheme. From January 20th it will be offered on every single BP and Mobil forecourt, giving the customer almost twice as many chances to

build up Premier Points.

We are building a great partnership here. It's a partnership of two companies who share a vision of the future.

We are confident that it won't be long before everyone understands what we mean when we say:

Together, we keep you moving.

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares end almost level after see-saw session

A STRONG performance by government securities, sporting gains of more than 11, enabled the equity market to end a volatile session almost square on the day.

The appearance of bargain-hunters at the lower levels enabled the bond market to shrug off the effects of the latest gloomy inflation figures and stronger pound. Brokers say that it is only a matter of time before the Chancellor signals a further rise in base rates. However, that was tempered yesterday by the Bundesbank, which hinted that it might find scope for another cut in rates.

The equity market took its lead from the bond market, having seen an early 15-point lead wiped out and replaced by a fall of almost 23 points after publication of the inflation figures. In the event, the FT-SE 100 index ended a volatile session 0.8 down at 3,926.1.

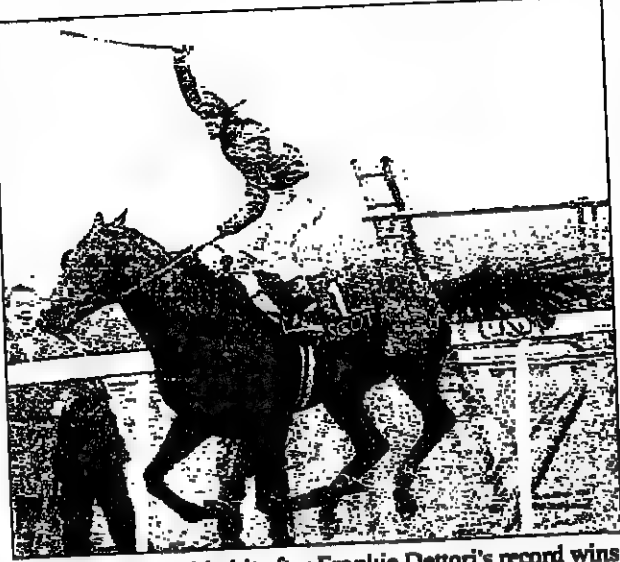
Turnover of more than a billion shares was swollen by several large bid-and-break transactions designed to establish a tax loss before this month's Budget. These included British Gas, up 9p at 207½p, where volume reached 67.4 million shares as lines totalling 20 million went through the market.

There were also lines in Shell, down 4½p at 97½p, on turnover of 35.6 million shares, and Hanson, up 1p at 79½p, where almost 69 million shares changed hands.

Several profit downgrades left Standard Chartered 10p easier at 64½p. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, is thought to have cut its forecast for the current year by £50 million to £880 million. At the same time, Credit Lyonnais Laing has cut its estimate for 1996 by £30 million to £860 million and for next year from £920 million to £890 million.

Both brokers take the view that Standard, which is often tipped as a takeover target, may have run far enough for the time being, having peaked at 72½p earlier this year.

Laing is urging clients to switch into National Westminster, up 5½p at 68½p, which it says is the cheapest in the sector. Royal Bank of Scotland hardened 5½p to 40½p after announcing it was in talks with Scottish Widows about areas of co-operation. Shares of East Midlands Electricity edged 5p higher to 62½p, but remain well below



Ladbroke took a big hit after Frankie Dettori's record wins

the 670p a share being offered by Dominion Resources. City speculators remain worried that the bid will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The close of business a total of 5.3 million shares had been traded.

The food retailers were chased higher on the back of some encouraging words from

Mercury Asset Management is being tipped to become a constituent of the top 100 companies. But the shares, at a high of £1.63½ on Wednesday, fell 7½p to £1.56 as one investor decided it was time to take profits. Brokers reported a bigline of 2.5 million shares on offer at £1.59½p.

Chatterhouse Tilney, the broker. Top of its shopping list appears to be J Sainsbury, 10p better at 35½p, but there were also gains for Tesco, up 2½p to 320½p. Safeway, up 2½p to 357½p and Asda, up 1½p to 387½p.

The drop in profits at BT came as no surprise to the City. Pre-tax profits during the second quarter at £730 million after higher redundancy charges

hack up to 10 per cent of the share capital in a move that will enhance earnings. Figures from South West Water were positively received and the price was rewarded with a rise of 6p at 583½p. These were the first figures produced since the Government blocked bids for the company from Severn Trent and Wessex Water.

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3p lower at 195½p after a positive trading update. Business in the third quarter was comfortably ahead of last year, in spite of taking an £8 million hit after the record seven wins in a day at Ascot by Frankie Dettori, the jockey.

The acquisition by Great Universal Stores of Experian, the US information services group, for £1.04 billion got a positive response, with the price climbing 5½p to 648p. Sears, the Selfridges and Freemans retailer, says it is thinking of ways to return surplus cash to shareholders. The news emerged as the group sold its Enoch Shopping Centre in Glasgow for almost £80 million, netting a profit of £19 million. Sears slipped ½p to 88½p.

The announcement of the deal saw shares of House of Fraser come off the boil, closing 2½p cheaper at 142p. There had been talk earlier in the week that Burton, ½p firmer at 143½p, might bid for the struggling retailer.

Noisy buyers pushed Full Circle, 2½p higher to 77½p before interim figures later this month. The management holds 60 per cent of the equity and would reject any bid approaches. But the buyers have been tempted, having seen the price come back from a peak this year of 77p.

Business is booming at Psion so it is raising £14 million by way of share placing of 3.5 million shares at 40p each. The money will finance expansion. BZW, which placed the shares, has increased its profit forecast for 1997 by £2 million to £24 million. The shares rose 45p to 44½p.

GILT-EDGED: Bargain-hunters and a hint that the Bundesbank might be tempted to cut interest rates enabled the bond market to end with some solid gains stretching to more than 11.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt fell as low as £109½, at one stage, signalling that the market was ripe to buy. It finished ½ higher at £109½ as a total of 134,000 contracts were completed. In the cash market, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 advanced ½ to £101½, while among shorter-dated issues, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 rose three ticks to £102½.

NEW YORK: After a slow morning, Wall Street stocks rallied at midday. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 17.5 points to 6,293.99.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	6293.99 (+17.5)
S&P Composite	733.66 (+2.52)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	21031.04 (+51.60)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	13004.80 (+11.31)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	604.01 (+2.89)
Sydney:	
ASX	2362.5 (+1.56)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2777.01 (+3.58)
Singapore:	
Strait Times	2149.76 (+43.28)
Brussels:	
General	10153.09 (+76.29)
Paris:	
CAC-40	2218.18 (+0.99)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	813.70 (+5.30)
London:	
FT 100	3926.1 (+0.8)
FTSE Mid 250	1950.7 (+1.5)
FTSE Smallcap	1811.76 (+12.40)
FT All-Share	1935.55 (+1.22)
FT Non Financials	2022.03 (+0.90)
FT Financials	1157.37 (+0.02)
FT Govt Sec	93.81 (+0.13)
Bargains	1135.40
SAQA Volume	302.11 (+0.14)
USA: Dow Jones	6293.99 (+17.5)
German Mark	2.5102 (+0.0008)
Exchange Index	61.9 (+0.6)
USDR	1.5297
155.8 Oct 12/74 Jan 1997=100	
RPI	155.8 Oct 12/74 Jan 1997=100
RPI	155.8 Oct 12/74 Jan 1997=100

RECENT ISSUES

Bentley (3)	4
Beechcroft	172½
Brands Hatch Ltd	175½
Brilliant Ltd	103
Admiral	103
Corp Exec Search (3)	4
Deep Sea Leisure	104½
First Russian Firs Co	607½
Geo Interactive Ltd	99
Healthcare Reform	122½
John David Sports	300
Lotus Road (2)	69½
Majestic Wines	218½
Mears Group	114
Mondas (75)	80
Oriental Restaurants 231½	
Scott Highland Hills	31
Ultra Electronics	308½

RIGHTS ISSUES

AG Holdings n/p	12½
Bridport-Gundry n/p	14
Capital Ship 62½ n/p	2
European Leds n/p	2
Perkins Foods n/p (74)	3
Springwood n/p	82½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Osborne & Little	87½p (+100p)
Peat	84½p (+57½p)
Admiral	342p (+22p)
Acorn Comp	213½p (+11p)
Rioch	302p (+15½p)
Fluorocarb	67½p (+14p)
Normy	588½p (+12p)
Prohibition	530p (+24p)
Man Utd	819p (+19½p)
FALLS:	
Oxford Int	470p (-21½p)
Capital Radio	540p (-16p)
Hamleys	424p (-10p)
De La Rue	567½p (-11p)
Bloomsbury Int	649p (-10p)
Stand Champs	640p (-10p)
Danke Bn Sp	757p (-10½p)
Argos	757p (-10½p)

Closing Prices Page 31

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FTSE 100	3926.1	3968.0	3910.0	3935.0	1574
FTSE 250	1950.7	1990.0	1910.0	1965.0	0
Three Month Sterling	93.54	93.55	93.46	93.51	2737
Three Month Euro DM	93.54	93.55	93.46	93.51	2737
Long Gilt	109.5	110.04	109.14	109.78	13329
Japanese Govt Bond	124.5	124.59	124.20	124.45	303
German Govt Bond	100.08	100.08	100.00	100.00	17800
Three Month ECU	92.90	92.94	92.85	92.84	576
Italian Govt Bond	126.90	127.00	126.40	126.64	8714
US Dollar	1.5297	1.5297	1.5297	1.5297	3078

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates	Clearing Banks	Finance Hse	Low	High	Week fixed
Discount Market	Overnight high 4½				
Treasury Bills (91-day)	2 1/8	2 1/8	2 1/8	2 1/8	2 1/8
1 month	5 1/8	5 1/8	5 1/8	5 1/8	5 1/8
3 months	6 1/8	6 1/8	6 1/8	6 1/8	6 1/8
6 months	7 1/8	7 1/8	7 1/8	7 1/8	7 1/8
12 months	8 1/8	8 1/8	8 1/8	8 1/8	8 1/8

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
Dollar	5 1/8	5 1/8	5 1/8	5 1/8	5 1/8
Deutschmark	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8	3 1/8
French Franc	1 1/8	1 1/8	1 1/8	1 1/8	1 1/8
Swiss Franc	1 1/8	1 1/8	1 1/8	1 1/8	1 1/8

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open	\$381.10-383.40	Close	\$382.20-382.70	High	\$390.45-393.95
Low	\$381.05-381.55	AM:	\$382.05	PM:	\$385.50
Kruggerand	\$281.75-284.75	22.92-23.12			
Platinum	\$386.25-623.00	Silver	\$4.90-62.93	Palladium	\$120.50-672.31

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Rate	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
100 Sterling	2.8094-2.8106	2.8143-2.8156	2.8181-2.8194	2.8208-2.8221
100 Sterling	2.8094-2.8106	2.8143-2.8156	2.8181-2.8194	2.8208-2.8221
100 Sterling	2.8094-2.8106	2.8143-2.8156	2.8181-2.8194	2.8208-2.8221
100 Sterling	2.8094-2.8106	2.8143-2.8156	2.8181-2.8194	2.8208-2.8221

TEMPUS

Credit, where credit is due

THE EUPHORIA that greeted the GUS purchase of Experian looks a tad overdone. There is no question that £1.2 billion was a better home for £1.2 billion than low interest-bearing deposits. Indeed, Experian is a fast-growing business — credit information and customer profiles — an area GUS knows well through its CCN subsidiary.

Information on customers is a hot commodity and frequently forms the basis of key business decisions: who to give credit to; where to site a new store or what new products to develop. Experian will make GUS a leading supplier of such information on both sides of the Atlantic, and should also help it to expand into developing countries.

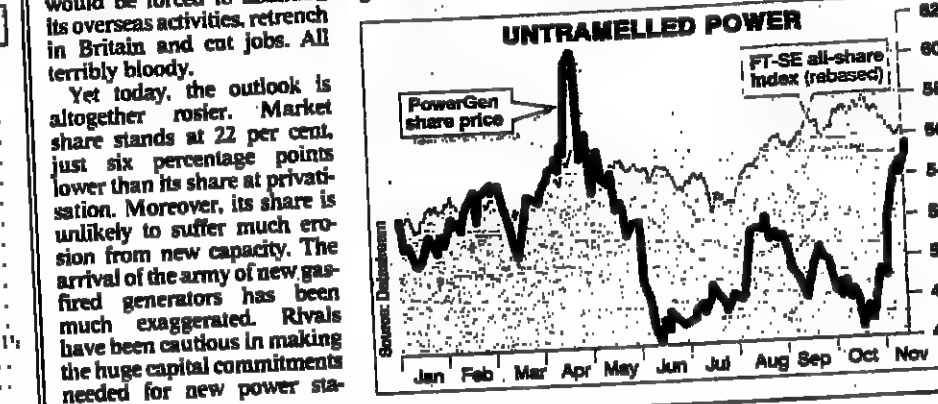
Unfortunately, beefing up one side of the business has the effect of exposing weakness in the other. Up to 20 per cent of profits will come from the high-growth customer information, compared with 8 per cent before the purchase. Good news for shareholders but the fact remains that the core of GUS is still agency retailing which is fast losing market share to so-called direct mail order. In effect, telephone sales are supplanting face-to-face deals through local agents, the traditional backbone of the GUS catalogue business.

Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, the chairman, knows direct mail order well through his chairmanship of Next. Given his influence and GUS's sheer size — it still has a market share almost twice the size of its nearest competitor in mail order — there is little reason to doubt that the company will refocus on the more exciting parts of the mail order business. But it has yet to make a move. When it does, euphoria will be in order.

PowerGen

POWERGEN has been peddling a somewhat doomsday scenario to all who care to listen. The chief executive recently warned the trade and industry select committee that if its market share in electricity generation slipped below 15 per cent then PowerGen would be forced to abandon its overseas activities, retrench in Britain and cut jobs. All terribly bloody.

Yet today, the outlook is altogether rosier. Market share stands at 22 per cent, just six percentage points lower than its share at privatisation. Moreover, its share is unlikely to suffer much erosion from new capacity. The arrival of the army of new gas-fired generators has been much exaggerated. Rivals have been cautious in making the huge capital commitments needed for new power stations.



which has been a watchword for consistency based on a record stretching back over decades. Some relief came yesterday in the shape of the £18.3 million it will receive from Hypo-Bank of Germany — payment for the trust's share of its management company, Hypo-Fora, a Colonial Management. The co-sponsor of this relationship raises the odd concern, but the management company has undoubtedly been a highly successful investment. Hypo-Bank's first purchase in 1989 valued it at £36 million. Yesterday's deal pitches the price at £230 million. Whether this will mark a wider recovery in F&C's fortunes is more doubtful. With 60 per cent of its money overseas, the trust has been hit by the strong pound. Although F&C's managers remain highly regarded, the trust will have little respite until the rise of sterling is checked.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

Foreign & Colonial

IT HAS been a rotten year for Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, the popular fund that has attracted an army of many thousands of private investors. Since it closed its way into the FTSE-100 a year ago, it has been downhill nearly all the way. By the start of the month, it was underperforming the FTSE All Share index by 15 per cent. It has lost its cherished F&C status and an 8 per cent discount has opened up between its share price and its net asset value. A shocking state of affairs for F&C.

OTHER STERLING

Country	Rate
Argentina peso	1,652.1-1,659.9
Australia dollar	2,101.6-2,104.2
Bahrian dinar	1,719.5-1,720.0
Brazil real	1,719.5-1,720.0
Canada dollar	1,719.5-1,720.0
China yuan	1,719.5-1,720.0
Czech koruna	1,719.5-1,720.0
Danish krone	1,719.5-1,720.0
Deutsche mark	1,719.5-1,720.0
French franc	1,719.5-1,720.0
Italian lira	1,719.5-1,720.0
Japanese yen	1,719.5-1,720.0
Malaysian ringgit	1,719.5-1,720.0
New Zealand dollar	1,719.5-1,720.0
Portuguese escudo	1,719.5-1,720.0
Saudi Arabian riyal	1,719.5-1,720.0
Singapore dollar	1,719.5-1,720.0
South African rand	1,719.5-1,720.0
Swedish krona	1,719.5-1,720.0
Swiss franc	1,719.5-1,720.0
Taiwan dollar	1,719.5-1,720.0
Thai baht	1,719.5-1,720.0
US dollar	1,719.5-1,720.0
Yemen rial	1,719.5-1,720.0

FTSE VOLUMES

Company	Volume
ASDA	1,300
British Gas	1,300
British Telecom	1,300
British Airways	1,300
British Petroleum	1,300
British Airways	1,300
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British Petroleum	1,300

WALL STREET

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THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Late-runner pulls ahead

A BACKER for *London Financial News*, the hapless City trade magazine, is expected to sign on the dotted line today. In the end, it was a race between two rival bidders. A UK-based company, with interests in publishing, that had been in talks with Clive Wolman, the founder and Editor, when the magazine first fell into financial difficulty reappeared on the scene only days ago. By that stage, Wolman and his team were already in serious talks with another company. But with one whiff of a more immediate answer to their prayers, word has it that they pumped for the late-runner.

Rise of Rupert

RUPERT HESELTINE, son of Michael, is destined for greater things. Since his father recently upped his stake at Haymarket Publishing, there have been whispers in the corridors that it won't be long before Rupert's son is promoted for the second time in two months. An account manager at the group's new publication, *Sky Sports*, the 28-year-old blond bachelor tells me that he knows nothing about plans for his promotion. However, an insider at the company says that a folder has been spotted entitled "What to do about Rupert."

Lawyers' beans

DIBB Lupton Alsop is off to London for a celebration because this week, even though talk of staff cuts is at an all-time high at the newly merged, Northern-based law firm. At least 190 partners will be staying at the Mayfair Inter-Continental. The total cost of the outing is said to be about £45,000. They will be meeting at the Mayfair this weekend, with a chartered coach to take them about, while their partners head for a pampering session at The Sanctuary in Covent Garden or to the West End show, *Scrooge*.



Saatchi: McDonald's deal

BY DINGO, Maurice Saatchi is spreading his tentacles down under. His advertising agency M&C Saatchi has just won the £60 million (£30 million) account to persuade Australians not to put another shrimp on the barbie but head down to McDonald's instead. Hopes are not high, though, that M&C can win the UK account.

Seeing red

ROWAN "Galecrasher" Gormley, managing director of Virgin Direct, raised eyebrows on Wednesday night when he stormed into a party hosted by Standard Life. Posing as a journalist from a national newspaper, Gormley wandered into The Ivy and helped himself to his Scottish competitor's wine. But the Virgin interloper couldn't pull the wool over the eyes of his perceptive hosts. "Strip down and there'll be a red uniform underneath that suit," said a particularly cross Standard Life employee. Unabashed, Gormley continued to tuck into the canapés, but I'm told that he has kindly invited the aggrieved employee to Virgin's Christmas bash.

MORAG PRESTON

If I were Chancellor I would raise taxes not interest rates

Inflation could be contained by using fiscal restraints as an alternative to monetarism

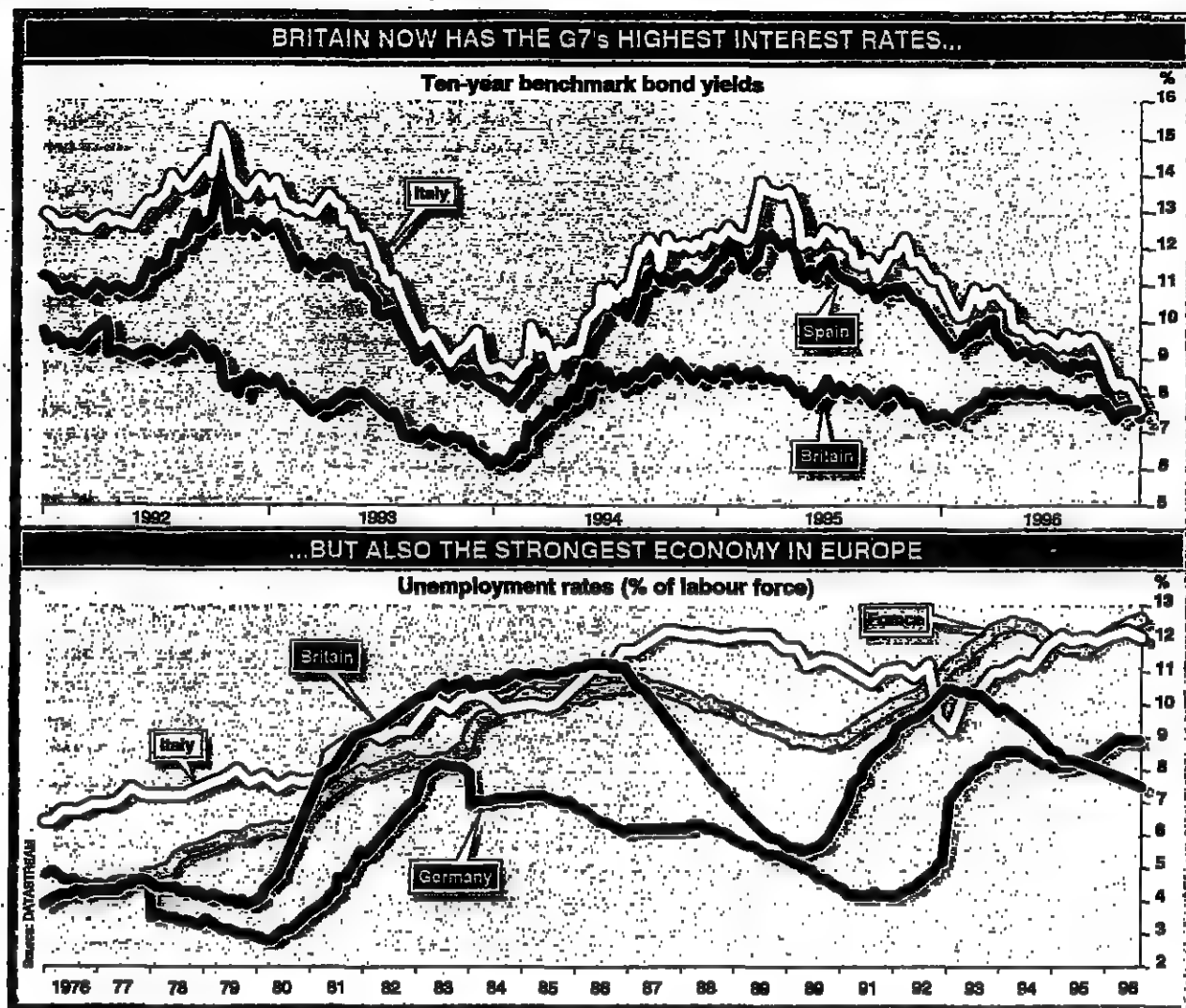
It is all very well to blame the Chancellor for raising interest rates and pushing the pound back towards its crippling level of the ERM period. But what else could Kenneth Clarke have done? Inflation is starting to accelerate. Consumer demand is strong and getting stronger. Unemployment is still too high, but wages are now rising quickly.

In a nutshell, as the Bank of England has rightly argued, something has to be done to prevent the economy taking off in another inflationary spiral. The question is whether that "something" should be to increase interest rates and push up sterling.

The rest of this article will argue that the policy of monetary tightening and currency appreciation chosen by the Chancellor will do grave damage to the British economy, and will outline the course that Mr Clarke should have pursued. That alternative can be described as the non-monetary approach to controlling inflation, or to put it less technically and more bluntly: a tough tax-raising Budget. And in case that still sounds like a fanciful "soft option", I will spell out in next week's *Economic View* some of the specific measures on taxes and public spending that could be announced as soon as this month's Budget, if Mr Clarke wanted to avert the disaster for British industry imposed by his present course.

But, first let us take a step backwards and consider the present predicament faced by Mr Clarke. After the figures on price and wage inflation published in the past two days there can surely be no doubt that interest rates will be pushed much higher if the Chancellor sticks to the Treasury dogma that monetary policy is the only tool that can be used to control inflation. If the Chancellor insists on remaining a monetarist "one-day golfer", as Sir Edward Heath once memorably described Nigel Lawson, base rates seem certain to rise by at least another 0.5 per cent between now and the general election — and by much more beyond that, especially if a Labour government, anxious to prove its anti-inflationary mettle, comes to power.

I would be very surprised if the present upward trend in interest rates were to come to an end before base rates reached 7.5 per cent or 8 per cent. That is roughly what the financial futures markets are now assuming and the minimum that would have a chance of reversing the trend in inflation, assuming that the Government does nothing else



to control the growth of demand.

By the standards of recent history, an interest rate of 8 per cent may not seem alarming. But they have to be seen in the international context. Today's global economy is very different from the high interest rate world of the 1970s and 1980s. Britain already has the highest interest rates in the advanced world. This dubious distinction was achieved on Monday when, for the first time in history, the rate of interest on Italian government bonds crossed over with the yield on British gilt-edged securities.

If they continue rising, sterling will become ever more overvalued, decimating Britain's manufacturers and exporters as it did in 1979-81 and 1990-92. It is no coincidence that both these disasters occurred in the years since the Treasury's forced conversion to the monetarist faith in 1979. So far, Britain's relatively high rates have reflected our high economic growth compared with the stagnation in Europe. But in the year ahead this benign relationship will change. Europe's interest rates will remain low because continental countries are slashing their budget deficits, and thereby also restraining their inflation. But Britain's Budget deficit will be among the highest in Europe, and inflation will be on the rise.

The markets are realising that the only policy that British Governments can contemplate to control inflation is to increase interest rates — and to keep putting them up. This means that the pound, which is already the world's highest-

yielding currency, will become ever more attractive to short-term investors. Yesterday, sterling shot past \$1.65 and DM2.50, hitting its highest level against the dollar since December 1992. This means that most of the gains in international competitiveness enjoyed by British industrialists and exporters since White Wednesday have now been reversed. But this monetary vicious circle has only just begun to turn. The flows of hot money into Britain will not stop when sterling reaches a level so manifestly overvalued that even the New York hedge and the Japanese life insurers take fright. On past experience that level will be much higher than almost anyone expects when the bull market begins.

And if there is even a hint that a future government might take Britain into the European monetary union? It is easy to imagine a disaster on the scale of 1979-80 or 1990-91. EMU membership would remove the main deterrent to buying sterling — the risk of suddenly losing your entire speculative gains — making sterling the proverbial one-way bet. Under these circumstances, the markets could drive the pound all the way back to the old ERM level of DM2.95 (a level, incidentally, that Eddie George considered was too low).

grim picture, then. But is there any alternative apart from just letting inflation rip? The answer is as clear today as it was on the eve of White Wednesday, when a Chancellor last insisted that there was only one possible

policy for keeping inflation under control. In fact, the alternative today is the same as it was then — to abandon the purely monetary approach to inflation control. Instead, the economy must be restrained with lower public spending or higher taxes. In practice what I mean is that Mr Clarke should increase taxes.

In theory, demand can be restrained even more effectively by cutting spending than by raising taxes. But the squeeze on public spending is already so intense that further substantial cuts could only be achieved through sweeping policy changes of a kind that could not be introduced in a single Budget — for example, the complete abolition of the basic state pension. In practice, therefore, an increase in taxes is the only real alternative to higher interest rates.

How big a tax increase is needed? The rules of thumb inferred from past experience, and incorporated in various econometric models, suggest that to achieve a 1 percentage point reduction in inflation would require an increase in interest rates of around 1 per cent, which may be about what the Treasury and the Bank of England have in mind between now and the middle of next year. Such an increase in interest rates would reduce economic growth by around 0.5 per cent in each of the first two years. To achieve a similar economic slowdown through fiscal policy would require a tax increase of about 0.5 per cent of GDP, or £3.5 billion.

Given that Mr Clarke has probably already pencilled into his Budget a tax cut of £2

to £3 billion, it would not take a very dramatic gesture on fiscal policy to obviate any increase in interest rates before the election. All Mr Clarke would have to do is forgo all plans for tax cuts, which is precisely the policy very sensibly being urged on him by the CBI and other business groups.

Looking further ahead, however, a mere standstill on current fiscal policy would probably not be enough. To bring inflation back below the Government's 2.5 per cent target would probably require a rate increase of another 2 points. The cost of avoiding such a monetary tightening would be a tax increase of around £7 billion — or a net increase of £5 billion on top of the £2 billion of pre-election tax cuts that could be forgone.

This seems a plausible estimate of what would be needed to avoid another monetarist vicious circle in the style of 1979-81 and 1990-92. I don't for a moment expect Mr Clarke to raise taxes in the Budget — especially since the monetary dogmatists at the Treasury are telling him that, even with a tough Budget, interest rates would still have to rise. But to show what could be achieved with intellectual flexibility and proper political leadership, I will present next week a few of the economically sensible and politically feasible reforms that could easily raise the required £5 billion. It seems a small price to pay to avert another industrial calamity. How sad that it is too much for the Tories, the Treasury and Mr Clarke.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Presenting a plan for civil aviation in the UK 'in which everyone wins'

From Mr Gordon Glass, BA. In his affirmation that British Airways' proposed alliance with American "will bring in many more airlines competing at Heathrow" Robert Ayling (Business Letters, November 7) continues to presume sufficient runway capacity at Heathrow for that to occur without BA giving up its slots.

It is my understanding that

BA is now the only UK aviation voice which is assuming that capacity will exist. Certainly BAA's evidence to the Heathrow Terminal 5 inquiry points in the opposite direction. What has happened to BA's strategic planning?

Other industry observers are realising that the recent rapid growth at Heathrow and other airports is neither desirable nor sustainable in

the face of the environmental consequences, the problems of congestion and the increasing risks of disaster in London and other cities. Yet BA's strategy appears to disregard these concerns.

The Commons Transport Select Committee this year questioned this presumption for growth and called for a more "coherent", sustainable and long-term UK airports

policy. Because of the urgent need in the face of current government inaction, 2020 Vision has produced a new *Forward Plan for UK Civil Aviation*, in which everyone "wins", for adoption by the next government.

Yours faithfully, GORDON GLASS (Director), 2020Vision Ltd, PO Box 1967, Bath.

Insurance 'lesson' from N Zealand

From Major J.L. Botterill (Str). I needed Peter Wood's letter (*The Times*, October 29) to stir me into action!

My daughter was knocked off her moped by a "roofer's" top load spilling from his untaxed, uninsured van without an MOT certificate. While he got a small fine, I paid for my daughter's time in hospital and she had to get another solicitor to go against her own solicitor, who had failed to claim in time on her behalf to the MI Bureau.

Years ago, in New Zealand, I found that buying a tax disc for my car gave me instant state third-party insurance so that I had time to pick and choose further cover privately. At the moment I can not use my car because my insurance company issued me with a cover note for 30 days, on August 29, and, despite writing to them and phoning them, I have yet to receive the policy etc, despite my cheque of August 31. Yours faithfully, J.L. BOTTERILL, 26 Acorn Grove, Pershore, Worcestershire.

Eager Hans makes a grab for Telekom

Oliver August on how the Germans are starting to learn from wily old Sid

Sid learned about flotations years ago. Just sign the form and pocket a few hundred pounds. Now Hans is catching on. The Deutsche Telekom privatisation will create millions of new shareholders in Germany and could double the number of people who participate in the Frankfurt stock market.

Telekom's DM100 million advertising campaign has been inescapable. Ron Sommer, chief executive of Telekom, said: "We have succeeded with the marketing surrounding Telekom over the past weeks and months of stirring up real stock fever in Germany."

Yesterday was the last day for investors to register and the offer is reported to be more than six times oversubscribed. In the past few days overwhelmed bank clerks have been turning away customers, telling them wrongly that the share is "sold out".

Karl-Heinz Drimmer, manager of a savings bank in Bonn, said hundreds of first-time shareholders flooded his branch office to place their orders. One civil servant, undeterred by the bank's mandatory warning of the risks, put down DM300,000, ordering 10,000 shares.

Herr Drimmer said: "We have had everything from grandmothers to high government officials. The one thing they have in common is the expectation of earning money."

Telekom will be making Europe's largest public offering, and in the process enticing millions of first-time investors to crack open their piggy banks and place orders.

Ordinary Germans have long viewed the stock exchange in Frankfurt with deep suspicion, seeing it as a casino rather than a safe place for savings. The middle class has frowned on capital markets in a hangover from the country's financial turmoil in the 1920s and 1940s when inflation and war wiped out the wealth of entire dynasties.

In the post-war years Germany became a nation where those with market-made fortunes were loathed rather than admired. No one who got rich on the market would ever brag

about it — unlike the US or modern Britain. That may all be about to change.

Detlef Müller, an electrical engineer from Cologne, had never owned a share in his life and before Telekom began invading his living room each night with alluring television advertisements he never gave the idea a second thought.

Like millions of Germans who have so far always put their money in low-yield savings accounts, the 30-year-old thought the stock market was too treacherous for his young family's savings.

But Herr Müller has suddenly caught stock market fever. He drained his savings to put up nearly DM9,000 for 300 of the new Telekom shares he hopes to pick up later this month and expects to make a handsome profit quickly.

Herr Müller said: "I had never thought of owning shares before this. I always thought it was too risky. But all the ads got me curious. It looks like this is an easy way to make some money. I am

still nervous about shares though and plan to take profits as soon as the price rises." Shares begin trading in Germany

and New York on November 18 and a day later in Tokyo. They are expected to get a price-tag of around DM30.

Only one in 16 Germans owns shares, giving the country one of the lowest shareholder levels of leading industrialised nations. Only some 5 per cent of private assets in Germany are invested in shares, compared with 17 per cent in Britain, 21 per cent in the US and 35 per cent in Sweden.

German firms may be among the most successful, exporting cars and industrial goods to the far corners of the world, but owning even a small stake in those multinational giants has so far been anathema to the average German.

Ronald Welcher, of Deutsche Bank in Frankfurt, said: "We hope that this offering will at long last spark interest in broad share ownership."

"Suddenly, owning shares has become a topic of conversation in Germany." Welcome to the stock market, Hans.

POWERGEN plc SCRIP DIVIDEND PLAN

PowerGen shareholders can choose — if they wish — to have future dividends paid to them in PowerGen shares (known as "New Shares"), instead of by cheque. To do so, they have to complete and return a Scrip Dividend Mandate form.

PowerGen's 1996/97 Interim Dividend — 7.8p net per share — is to be paid on 20 December 1996 to shareholders registered in the Company's books at the close of business on 3 December 1996.

Shareholders who have already sent in a Scrip Dividend Mandate form will be paid the Interim Dividend in shares, and need do nothing more. Shareholders who would like to be paid in shares should phone PowerGen's Registrars on 0117 976 3005. The Registrars will supply the Terms and Conditions of the Scrip Dividend Plan and a Scrip Dividend Mandate form. They can also deal with any queries, and cancellations.

These are the important dates:

25 November 1996	PowerGen Shares begin to trade "ex dividend"
29 November 1996 5.00pm	The price of a New Share is available by phoning 0117 976 3005
3 December 1996	The last date for Mandate forms or cancellations to be received by the Registrars
3 December 1996	Shareholders on the register at close of business qualify for the 1996/97 Interim Dividend
19 December 1996	Dividend Cheques and Certificates for New Shares posted
20 December 1996	Interim Dividend paid. New Shares can be traded



POWERGEN
FOR NEW AND EXISTING SHAREHOLDERS

EMU fears shrugged off by Bank of Ireland

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

THE adverse effects of economic and monetary union on the currency market revenues of financial institutions will be offset by the better opportunities for asset management that will be available in the larger, more liquid European pool, the Bank of Ireland Group said yesterday.

Pat Molloy, chief executive, said it was difficult to quantify the effects of EMU membership on the bank, particularly since it is still unclear whether sterling will be in or out. "I think the consensus is that sterling will not join initially. But I think that EMU will be good for Ireland, and

what's good for Ireland is good for a bank with its core business in the Republic," he said.

The Bank of Ireland, which is acquiring the UK's Bristol & West Building Society for £600 million, reported pre-tax profits little changed at Ir£193.1 million, compared with Ir£193.6 million, broadly in line with market expectations. Earnings slipped slightly to Ir£25.2p a share from 25.7p. The group incurred a \$8 million one-off restructuring charge when it merged First Holdings, its US operation, with Royal Bank of Scotland's Citizens Financial Group, in which it now holds a 23.5 per cent stake.

Group earnings were also adversely affected by an 11 per cent fall in profits in the treasury division to Ir£36.9 million. Mr Molloy blamed the drop on a more difficult market environment and on lower loan loss recoveries in corporate banking.

On the retail side, BoI increased its volume of business in both lending and deposits. Total lending was ahead 11 per cent, with residential mortgages growing particularly strongly. The division recorded a 6.4 per cent increase in profits to Ir£104 million.

A 15 per cent increase in profits to Ir£42 million by other activities, such as life assurance and insurance, was secured by improved sales of its products.

Mr Molloy said that BoI was going through a period of change in its structure and outlook which he believed would leave it stronger in the future.

He said he hoped the acquisition of Bristol & West, which is announced in April, will be completed by the middle of next year. Bristol & West is the UK's ninth-largest building society.

The interim dividend is increased from 15p a share to 16p.

Biotech in drug deal in Japan

BY ERIC REGULY

BRITISH BIOTECH signed a \$74 million licensing agreement yesterday that gives Marimastat, its oral anti-cancer drug, access to the Japanese market.

Tanabe Seiyaku, Japan's eighth largest drug company, will fund Marimastat development in exchange for exclusive Japanese marketing rights. Tanabe has paid British Biotech \$7 million and will give it another \$67 million over the next few years.

Marimastat is undergoing final trials before it receives approval for sale in Europe and in North America, where it should reach the market in 1999. Japanese approvals are unlikely before 2003.

The deal marks one of British Biotech's first partnerships. In Europe and North America, its policy is to develop the drugs itself.



Good news: Charles Brims announced an increased payout in spite of a fall in profits

Newspaper group optimistic

BY CLARE STEWART

PORTSMOUTH & SUNDERLAND Newspapers, the regional newspaper publisher and printer and convenience store operator, suffered a 3 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £4.68 million in the half year to September 28.

In spite of the fall, Charles Brims, chief executive, said: "We are very pleased with these results. We are exactly in line with where we said we would be." Mr Brims said the company is investing about £50 million in expanding its activities in retailing and printing.

Group operating profits rose 4 per cent to

£4.99 million. A 6 per cent growth in advertising revenues to £17.3 million from regional newspapers, such as *The News* in Portsmouth and the *Sunderland Echo*, helped to offset the impact in the first half of higher newsprint costs and losing the contract in 1995 to print *The Independent* in Portsmouth.

The company is increasing the interim dividend from 3.8p a share to 4.25p, payable from earnings of 7.1p a share, up from 25p last time. Yesterday's results saw the share price climb 5p to 730p.

Ricardo declines to explain dismissal of chief

BY MARTIN BARRIS

CHRISTOPHER ROSS has been dismissed as chief executive of Ricardo Group, the automotive engineering and design company. It emerged yesterday.

Mr Ross, 52, had been removed from office "with immediate effect", the company said. He is believed to be in line for a payoff of between £400,000 and £450,000.

Mr Ross, who was appointed four years ago, was on a two-year contract, with an annual salary of £215,000, although his total package, including pension benefits, amounted to £325,000.

Ricardo declined to comment further on the reasons for his departure but indicated that it was not connected to the company's trading performance. The company's trading performance has been unchanged since the annual meeting on November 1, when Sir Philip Foreman, the chairman, told shareholders that he expected Ricardo to continue to make steady progress.

In September, the group reported a fall in pre-tax profits to £4.7 million, from £6.2 million, after disposal costs of £370,000. Turnover in the year to June 30 jumped from £65.9 million to £102 million.

At the time of the results, Mr Ross said that the group had taken action that would cut profits in the short term but leave the group in better shape for the future.

Ricardo had invested heavily, he said, spending £8 million mainly on improved test facilities and computers in Britain and in America. In addition, research and development spending had risen from £2.5 million to £3.2 million. Borrowings had climbed from £15 million to £6.7 million.

Ricardo shares were unchanged at 113½p yesterday.

Mr Ross is succeeded as chief executive by Rodney Westhead, who has been the group's finance director since 1992. John Baker, who is currently managing director of Ricardo Consulting Engineers, joins the board as an executive director.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Asian demand lifts Oxford Instruments

STRONG DEMAND from Japanese and East Asian markets helped Oxford Instruments, the manufacturer of body-scanning equipment for hospitals and superconductivity magnets, to register a record level of new orders in the first half, rising by nearly 10 per cent. First-half sales, though, showed a more modest growth, increasing by 2.3 per cent to £67 million, while pre-tax profits rose 5.5 per cent, to £9.5 million. The dividend is up 10.5 per cent to 2.1p.

The profits rise failed to meet City expectations and Oxford shares fell 2½p to 470p. Oxford Magnet Technology, the joint venture company with Siemens that makes equipment for scanners, saw profits fall to £2.4 million, from £3.03 million. Peter Williams, chairman, said that continued political pressure on healthcare costs in markets such as America had affected demand for products. Overseas sales make up 87 per cent of turnover, with Japan the second largest market after America.

Hamleys boss sells stake

HOWARD DYER, chairman of Hamleys, the toys retailer, has sold about a fifth of his holding in the company for £1.36 million. He retains a 5.7 per cent stake. The sale, the first significant disposal Mr Dyer has made since Hamleys floated in 1994, was made to raise capital for a house purchase. Mr Dyer disposed of 317,000 shares at 428p per share on November 13. The shares dropped 10p to 424p yesterday.

Café Inns sales up

CAFÉ INNS, the pub company listed on the Alternative Investment Market, said yesterday that it had shrugged off decline in its sector with sales growth of 10 per cent in the six months to September 2. But compared with last year, which saw a gain of £170,000 from its now disposed of tenanted inns subsidiary, pre-tax profits stood at £283,000 against £331,000. Michael Norris, finance director, said that the company would add five more managed houses by the end of next year.

Action beats forecast

ACTION Computer Supplies Holdings, which achieved a stock market listing by reversing into Standard Platform Holdings in July, achieved pre-forma profits of £2,058 million after tax in the year to August 30, almost 6 per cent ahead of its own forecast at the time of the change. The company, which supplies information technology products by mail order, said that turnover rose nearly 32 per cent to £134.6 million. The company has net-cash of £1.2 million.

Megalomedia buy plan

MEGALOMEDIA, the media and recruitment services company led by Lord Satchell, is to continue to seek investments in complementary businesses. In August it acquired holdings in Webmedia, a Web site design company, and Netnames, an Internet name-registration service, to add to The Multimedia Corporation and Cybercast. In the six months to September 30, pre-tax profits rose to £868,000, from £39,000. Earnings were 1.14p a share (0.48p). Again there is no dividend.

Lynx leaps ahead

LYNX HOLDINGS, the computer software and services company, achieved a strong rise in pre-tax profits, to £6.95 million from £2.56 million, in the year to September 30, helped by a contribution from Vines Group, the computer services business acquired in October 1995. Earnings rose to 5.34p a share, from 4.7p. The total dividend is increased to 1.75p, from 1.55p, with a final dividend of 1.3p, due to be paid on February 3. Lynx said it continued to seek growth through acquisitions.

THE TIMES MUSIC SHOP

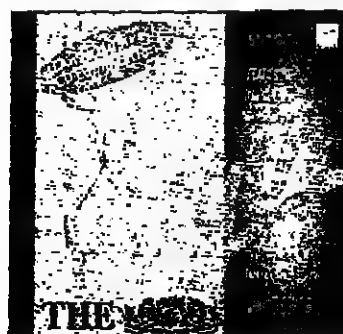
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Paper drop hits Scapa

A WORLDWIDE downturn in paper production held back profits growth at Scapa, the paper printing supplier (Fraser Nelson writes). David Dunn, Scapa's chief executive, said non-paper activities - almost 50 per cent of business - delivered a stronger performance, with operating profits up £3.3 million to £14.9

million. Overall pre-tax profit was 9 per cent ahead, at £30.2 million, for the six months to September 30, on sales up 7 per cent at £265 million. Earnings were 8.6p per share (7.9p). An interim dividend of 1.92p (1.79p) is due on February 3. Analysts downgraded year-end forecasts from £72 million to £62 million.

Shanks is given boost by recovery at Rechem

BY KATH RODGERS

SHANKS & McEWAN, the waste management group, achieved a 7.3 per cent rise in profits before tax to £11.6 million in the half year to September 28.

The figure, which was slightly above expectations, was aided by a turnaround at Rechem, the incineration business, which reported a £600,000 operating profit against a £100,000 loss for the same period last year. Increased waste collection volumes and an improvement in the company's electricity generation business also offset an increase in landfill costs.

Hoare Govett, the company's broker, raised its full-year profit forecast from £20.7 million to £22.7 million, partly as a result of a contract to handle contaminated material from the millennium site at Greenwich. A bottleneck in the rendering industry created by the BSE cull has also allowed Shanks & McEwan to pick up a number of spot landfill disposal contracts for other animal carcasses.

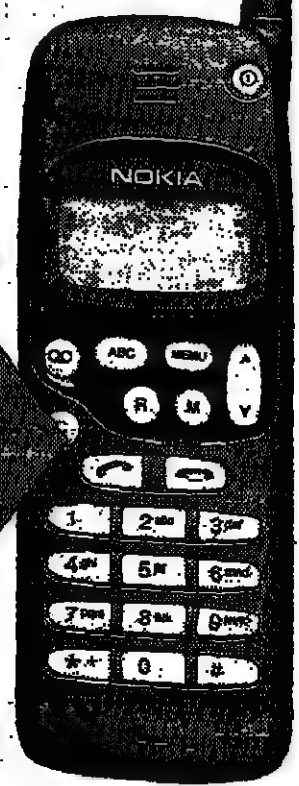
The company said it is too early to judge the impact of the landfill tax introduced on October 1, but said it will maintain a range of waste services including recycling facilities.

Earnings per share climbed 6.6 per cent to 3.9p. The interim dividend, payable on January 6, rises to 1.3p a share from 1.2p. The company has a net cash balance of £2 million, and Michael Averill, group chief executive, said it would continue to look for acquisitions after making five purchases so far this year.

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THEATRE 1
Rostand's couplets are put through a Glasgow mincer in Communicado's bracing *Cyrano de Bergerac*



THEATRE 2
Lynn Redgrave muses poetically on her relationship with her daddy in *Shakespeare For My Father*

THE TIMES ARTS



OPERA 1
The Guildhall students sing Cavalli's *Calisto* well enough, but miss the humour



OPERA 2
... but British Youth Opera enters with gusto into Vaughan Williams's *Sir John in Love*

THEATRE: Rumbustious Scots let *Cyrano* slip from their grasp; Lynn Redgrave looks for paternal love

How to blow a Frenchman's nose



Conked out: Tom Manton gives a credible performance as Cyrano but the production lacks pathos

The young Buñuel described Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* as "two films glued together by their bellies", and a similar comment could be made of Edmond Rostand's remarkable yet ridiculous "heroic comedy". One half of this monster presents the potentially fruitful story of a bright-faced man expressing his feelings for the woman he loves by composing letters for another man to send her in his own name. The other half can only repeat the 19th century's tired old fantasies of undying and selfless love. The genuine dramatic output of the first is frittered away in the soporific of the second.

Communicado, the Scottish-based company that exhibits such a splendidly vigorous response to classic texts, boldly translating them into a broad local idiom and generally larking about the stage in uninhibited joy, has squeezed Rostand's couplets through a Glasgow mincer. Edwin Morgan (a Scot despite his surname) turns the mincer's handle and the result is a rumbustious, quirkily rhyming version that tosses the dialogue back and forth so giddily that sometimes three speakers contribute to a single line.

The rhymes can be groaningly dreadful. "You've made too many enemies," a friend tells Cyrano, who replies: "Why, how many tonight became venomous?" Morgan even comes up with a rhyme for his hero's name when Fiona Bell's Roxane, arranging for him to miss the Siege of Arras, admits that "he'll kill me for scratching his war, I know". It sounds almost passable in the Scottish.

Redgrave's *Shakespeare For My Father* has had considerable success in America, but has taken its time to reach the city and one of the theatres where Sir Michael established himself as the most emotionally ravaged of the great actors. It was worth the wait, for it combines wit, technical skill and human feeling. The format, in which Redgrave slips intermittently from reminiscence to Shakespearean speech, sometimes seems a mite contrived. But who cares, when she effectively communicates her desperate yearning for a father who was a father rather than a series of gorgeous roles?

She cuts a fine, sure figure these days, but as a child she thought of herself as "round and glum, like a mushroom". When she was born, her father's diary mentioned lunching at the Garrick but not her arrival. When she was Theseus in a school play, the seat reserved for him stayed empty. He was a daunting, charismatic figure she hero-worshipped from afar, but only towards the end, when he was succumbing to Parkinson's disease.

Cyrano de Bergerac Almeida

Gerry Mulgrew's direction works hard to be as imaginative as the new text. Costumes cover a range of four centuries, from the Louis XIII wig and cloak of Rob Pickavance's suave Comte de Guiche through caps of liberty and a 1920s vamp to the studded leather jackets of the hyperactive cadets of Gascony. In the baffling first act, where characters with names like Carbon de Castel-Jaloux come and go, Mulgrew makes it difficult to tell what is actually going on. Who are these people? When will the plot begin?

Gordon Davidson's sets, consisting of endlessly rearrangeable wooden shapes, suggest a similar restlessness, though it is enjoyable to watch them being turned around so that fairground booths become a pastry cook's shop-windows, Roxane's balcony, the redoubt at Arras and finally the cloisters where the widowed Roxane mourns her dead

love for 14 years, before Cyrano, dying alongside her, reveals the truth he has fatuously concealed. I say fatuously because the rough and earthy text works against the play's romantic assumptions. Tom Manton, an actor I greatly admire for his strength and subtlety, equipped for Cyrano with a nose like a dodo's beak, credibly suggests the alarm of a man losing his identity by loving for a rival. But his general behaviour is just too quick and canny to convince us that eternal self-sacrifice can be part of his emotional constitution.

The evening does have its amusing moments, briskly performed by a cast who will readily pick up a trombone or sax for a jazz interlude, but only rarely did I sense the pathos, or even the harsh ironies of fate, that the play is said to have disclosed to audiences of yore.

JEREMY KINGSTON

I want to be Daddy's girl

At first it looks like a moon seen through haze. Then the silvery shape on the black curtain behind the Haymarket stage becomes a bit brighter, and is vestigially recognisable as the face of the man Lynn Redgrave is about ruefully to celebrate from down front. It belongs to her father, and comes and goes during her one-woman show. And that is as it should be, for Lynn's message is that Sir Michael was inscrutable, faintly discernible through the clouds, never someone easy to reach or openly to love.

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Redgrave is a good mimic and



Lynn Redgrave in the shadow of Sir Michael: wit and feeling

OPERA: Good music but poor taste from a student version of Cavalli; exuberant fun from Vaughan Williams; and a banal computer-generated premiere

All straps and studs

HUMOUR is a funny thing at the best of times. Lastno-Mediterranean humour is funnier than most other sorts, and something that Anglo-Saxons find it hard to reproduce. Giovanni Faustini's libretto for Cavalli's *Calisto* (1651) is wickedly witty and sophisticated, its tastelessness tastefully understated.

Both Peter Hall and David Freeman in their very different ways found a kind of matching style in earlier stagings, but in the hands of the GSMD's production team the anarchic gender couplings set off by Jove's disguise as Diana emerge as merely dour and mucky. A vein of fetishism in the costumes seemed inappropriate — Jove wore shiny high-heeled boots — and the Sylphs' beating-up of Endymion was downright offensive. Call me old-fashioned, but some things are best left to consenting adults in private.

Musically the evening is rather happier. Nicholas Kok conducts Paul Daniel's performing edition, originally made for Opera Factory, with

La Calisto Guildhall School of Music and Drama

fluent ease, and the small ensemble — just two violins plus continuo — produces a properly authentic sound. It was bold to perform the opera in Anne Ridler's English translation given that half the principals were from abroad; I suppose that the way things are going nowadays only foreigners can scrape together the fees, a nice compliment to our colleges but perhaps not what they are primarily designed for.

Singing 17th-century opera in so pure an edition certainly separates sheep from goats. This has less to do with rationality or clarity of diction than with actually thinking the words and what they mean. Emer McGiloway led the field with her crisply projected Juno, every consonant neatly in place, every line milked for its meaning through velvety, firmly

moulded mezzo tone. The Lithuanian soprano Liubov Chuchrova matched her in clarity and communicativeness as a burly Saurino, and William Purefoy's Endymion was equally immediate in delivery; his counter-tenor is forward and bright rather than hoaty-through-the-head.

There were other fine voices on show, but with impressive vocal rather than communicative cords. The Swedish soprano Magdalena Brändland fielded gleaming tone as Diana, and her compatriot Marie Birve was only marginally less accomplished in the title role (a clear top, as yet cloudy bottom). The German-born bass Panito Iconomou boomed sonorously as Jove, and the Australian tenor Christopher Saunders displayed an ease in the upper register that should stand him in good stead in the French Baroque repertoire.

Those with a penchant for straps, studs and a bit of flage might like to know that there are repeat performances today and tomorrow; those interested in Venetian opera may prefer to stay away.

RODNEY MILNES

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Sir John in Love
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ear is constantly drawn away from the foreground action to the background panorama: those great orchestral backdrops of modal melody, rolling smooth as chalk downland, or busily woven as a mock-Tudor tapestry of strong, folksy threads. But to refocus our attention Timothy Dean, conducting helpfully introduced the 13 characters whose constant bustle of exits and entrances and moments

of comic business worked far harder to engage the audience than did a note of Vaughan Williams's score itself.

With not a second of music to woo us over to his side, Andrew Shore simply rode through his robust and fulsome writing with confidence and flair. No matter, either, that Fenton's love song to Anne was undercut by the singalong chorus: Andrew Mackenzie-Wicks's ardent tenor and Helen Lathan's clear soprano gave bright outline to their characters. The fragrance of Vaughan Williams's pot-pourri of nine folksongs-for-the-spotting, extra Shakespeare ditties, and odd petals from other men's flowers (Jonson, Middleton and Marlowe) constantly distracts the listener from emotional engagement. Yet Joanna Camplin as Mistress Quickly is a lustrous mezzo talent to watch out for. Louise Armit's lively Mrs Ford (she

has the famous Greensleeves plume), and Henry Moss's elegant tenor Slender worked particularly hard to animate their canons. For all its frustrations and longeurs, *Sir John* was a cunning choice for the many young and eager

voices of British Youth Opera and, thanks to the outstanding playing of the Oxford University Chamber Orchestra, provided an evening of unexpected rewards.

HILARY FINCH

Which way to the exit?

The Master and Margarita
The Place

THREE weeks of opera, music theatre and contemporary music at The Place began inauspiciously with a new opera of rare mediocrity. Hilary Finch writes. New Millennium Opera took it upon itself to present the premiere of *The Master and Margarita*, a numbing tribute to Darryl Way (of Curved Air fame) to Mikhail Bulgakov's surreal and satirical novel. Inspired by David Graham-Young's stage adaptation, Way sought to enhance the tale by adding music. Here are the extraordinarily imaginative and Chagall-esque images of Pontius Pilate watched by a poet in Gorky Park; of black magic at the Moscow Variety Theatre; of flying

witches and informing black cats. And all dragged down by a lazy, self-indulgent score in which quasi-minimalist figures chatter endlessly below long stretches of ill-directed dialogue, drab melodies, limited chord sequences and unchanging tempos. The entire score is keyboard and computer-generated, and prerecorded, to which the singers sing along. Every bar, save a limping waltz-song for Margarita (Fiona Rose) and an embarrassing dance in the

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POP 3

... and the soldierly lyricism of Robson and Jerome in duet mode...



POP 4

... to the muscular ditties of the *Gladiators*: a TV series is a sure way to sell a pop album

Who's as fey as Virginia Woolf?

Orlando have a simple ambition - to become Stock, Aitken and Waterman, but with make-up

Britpop is becoming awfully wearying - an hour of Radio 1 is like listening to a series of terrace chants set to a Status Quo B-side. This stomping and clomping is all very well if you're in a gang, on the crest of a wave and beered up to the eyebrows, but those who are stranded in small towns, full of self-doubt. The boorish climate of the charts has rather alienated those who provide pop's greatest impetus - the weeds, the loners, the freaks, the over-read and underfed.

Previously, the poetry readers and the self-hate breeders would look to the Manic Street Preachers and Suede for succour. These were gigs that were "safe" to go to: you wouldn't get beaten up for wearing nuclear-strength make-up and a wedding dress, and the lyrics and imagery were a lifeline in the choppy seas of adolescence.

But with success came fans who "weren't into" the ethos, just the music. Suddenly, even gigs by these bands were filled with the kind of people you have to watch nervously - moustaches, blouson leather jackets and a pint in each fist. And so the weird have had to look elsewhere for their heroes.

Orlando are the first post-Suede band to issue a rallying call. Pretty much every gig in London for the past year has had the Orlando Moment: two tall, besuited men, the photographic negative of each other, sweep into the room. Dickon acts like David Bowie's ghost, had Bowie died on the set of *The Man who Fell to Earth*:

yellow meringue hair and a furred umbrella, spooked eyes and an awkward self-possession. Tim is vaguely aquatic - as if he'd spent a portion of his life in a tank - with a black curtain of hair and huge, humorous eyes. Both have bodies that are gangly and lank, raised on the wholesome British diet of white bread and butter, tea and cigarettes.

Their debut single, *Just For a Second*, was a glorious



CAITLIN MORAN

disco drama with a thread of barely repressed hysteria. Marc Almond will cover it at some point, and then it will stay at No 5 for three weeks. Unfortunately, Orlando didn't get the chance to take it into the charts themselves, as their record company underestimated how well it would sell, and simply didn't press enough copies to meet demand.

"We'll rerelease it at some point," Tim says. "I really want it to be a huge hit, so it can be playing as I enter a school reunion. I've spent a lot of time imagining that school reunion - I'll have a supermodel on one arm, and a leopard on a lead, I may later release the leopard among the more cynical of my former peers."

Tim and Dickon were both

outsiders at school. Dickon, primarily because he was called Dickon, was beaten up every day. *Figuring this was never going to change, he came out at 15 and 'gave them a reason'.* Tim was moved from a condemned house to a rough council estate, and, as a frail boy, was frequently bullied.

Dickon decided that his band was to be called Orlando, and auditioned "all the good-looking men" for his lead singer. But, as they were largely unwilling to sing his anthems of self-loathing and desperation, he was still without a singer until he met Tim in London. After seeing Take That at Wembley, Orlando were spurred into action.

A deal with Warner Bros swiftly followed their appearance on the cover of *Melody Maker*, allowing them to branch out into their other interests. "We're writing songs for the next Boyzone album," Tim says. "The aim is to become Stock, Aitken and Waterman, but with make-up."

On the evidence of their second release, *The Magic EP*, that shouldn't be a problem. The first track, *Don't Kill My Rage*, is like a classy, disco-pop Smiths. Swivelling 180 degrees, *Fatal* is a muscled, febrile slice of menacing swingbeat. Hearing Tim sing these songs is a joy - it seems every note and emotion is within his range. Such eclecticism, however, will make things difficult.

"We're a cause, though," Tim says. "I've just thought of that. Orlando are a cause."

● The Magic EP is released on Monday by Blanco y Negro

Hit songs are just a big act

So you wanna be a rock'n'roll star? Get yourself into a TV series, says Alan Jackson

Record retailers who read the pop industry's trade paper *Music Week* have been left in no doubt as to why they should bulk-order Jimmy Nail's new LP *Crocodile Shoes II* (out on Monday). "This is the ultimate TV advertisement album!" boasted the full-page colour advertisement, and for once the hypebole was justified. After all, last night a helpful BBC began screening the six-part follow-up to Nail's earlier *Crocodile Shoes* series (itself the parent of a million-selling soundtrack), with prime-time exposure guaranteed right until that moment when Santa loads the last gift-wrapped CD on to the sleigh and sets about harnessing up his reindeers.

Clever Mr Nail for coming up with the idea of a drama based on the rise and subsequent fall of factory worker-turned-C&W star Jed Sheppard in the first place, let alone for then writing, producing and starring in it. The stroke of genius, though, was in making his character a singer-songwriter. Were Sheppard an aspiring novelist, would he be hurrying out to buy the

would-be Booker winner we'd seen him labouring over on-screen? But stick someone on TV in the guise of a singer, and let them perform a half-decent song - even if it's only half-decently - and punters will fight to part with their money. Nail was a regular on the R&B circuit in his native Newcastle long before he found fame as bric-a-brac Oz in *Auf Wiedersehen, Pet*. But it was two years of national exposure in the role that gave him the platform to cover Rose Royce's *Love Don't Live Here Anymore* and reach the Top Three in 1985.

That he was able subsequently to generate a hit in his own right was proved conclusively by 1992's *Ain't No Doubt*, which topped the charts despite no TV tie-in. Similarly, his largely self-written 1995 LP *Big River* achieved platinum status on its own merits. But Elyse Taylor, marketing director for Nail's record label, East West, admits that prolonged TV exposure was the extra element "which allowed the original *Crocodile Shoes* to lift off into the stratosphere". And at no additional expense to her company.

"I haven't even tried to calculate what would have been the cost to us of guaranteeing that amount of peak-time publicity for the LP but, suffice to say, it would be way beyond any budget we might have to spend," Taylor says. But if she is appreciative of the benefits of this synergy between pop and TV, Simon Cowell would appear to be building a career on it. "Ten years ago, while working for a small label called Fanfare, I first became aware of radio's growing hostility towards straightforward pop music," says Cowell, who works in the artists and repertoire division of the company BMG. "I was involved in two huge hits by Sinitta, *So Much* and *Toy Boy*. Those records sold like mad, but got only a couple of plays a week on Radio 1, simply because they weren't to the station's personal taste. That they could still do so well thanks to TV exposure set me thinking."

Cowell joined BMG in 1991 and, having noticed that the World Wrestling Federation was pulling in audiences of more than 600,000 ("most of them totally fanatical kids") per show on Sky TV, signed up its main names, called them WWF Superstars and was rewarded with a No 4 hit, *Slam Jani*. Later there would follow two other youth-cult binges: the Mighty Morphin Power Rangers' track *Power Rangers*, and Zig and Zag's *Them Girls, Them Girls*, both of which made the Top Ten in 1994.

His biggest success, though, came from monitoring viewer reaction to an episode of the drama series *Soldier, Soldier*. On the show, actors Robson Green and Jerome Flynn performed the modern standard *Unchained Melody* - and the next day fans were at record store counters across the country, asking if it was available.



Television success as an actor has helped Jimmy Nail to hit the heights as a singer

Thanks to Cowell, it soon was, as was an album. Both became million-selling chart-toppers in the run-up to last Christmas. A year later Robson and Jerome are back: their current hit *What Becomes of the Broken Hearted* has had two weeks at No 1, and first-week sales of around 750,000 for the follow-up LP, *Take Two*, have put it No 2 in the album chart. Given such resounding success, you might expect Cowell

to be resting on his laurels, but no. Another single, *Hillbilly Rock*, *Hillbilly Roll* by the Woolpackers ("as seen on *Emmerdale*"), debuted in the Top Ten last Sunday, while a nation waits in breathless anticipation for cover versions of Thin Lizzy's *The Boys are Back in Town* by the Gladiators, and the Supremes' *Where Did Our Love Go*, by actress Tricia Penrose (you know - the barmaid in *Heartbeat*). Does Cowell not fear prose-

cution for crimes against popular music? "Some people love these records," others will loathe them," he says. "But as long as enough want to buy them, they serve their purpose."

Now he is busy with preparations for Christmas 1997. What TV-related horrors - or, delights - will he be unleashing on us then? "Even if I wanted to tell you, I couldn't," he says. "I haven't quite got all the acts signed up yet."

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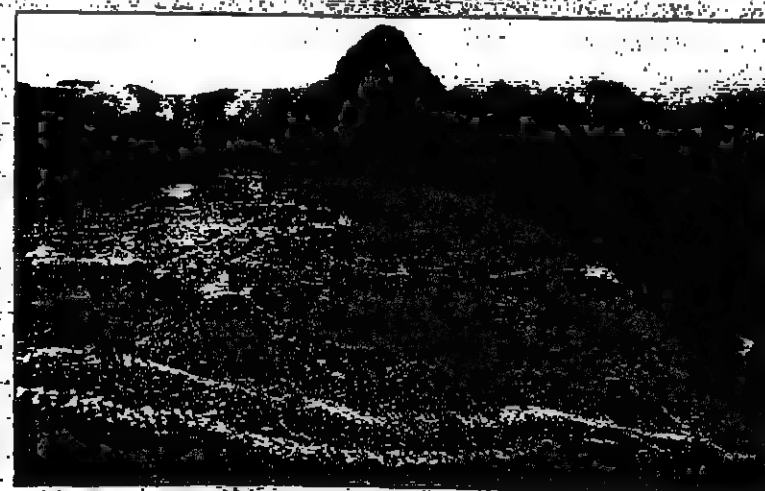


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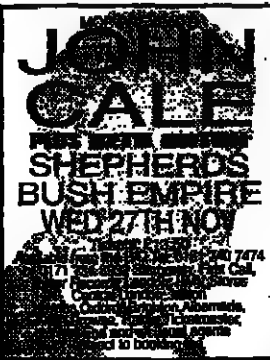
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CHANGING TIMES



POP 5

The Lightning Seeds invite the listener to hum along on their latest release, *Dizzy Heights*...



POP 6

... while the Pink Floyd veteran Rick Wright makes his most determined bid yet to find stardom as a soloist



POP 7

Singer Kevin Salem delivers plenty of raw, old-fashioned rock'n'roll on his new *Glimmer*



POP 8

... and Johnny Cash assembles the most extraordinary range of material ever marshalled by a country singer

POP ALBUMS: More artifice, less heart from the Lightning Seeds – so David Sinclair puts all his money on Cash

We won't miss the prime of Ian Broudie

LIGHTNING SEEDS

Dizzy Heights (Epic 486640 £13.99)
WHEN they write the history of Britpop, the Lightning Seeds will be remembered as one of those groups who, despite their stature at the time, cast virtually no shadow. Rather like ELO in the 1970s, Ian Broudie and his cohorts effortlessly distill a shrewd songwriting skill into quality three-minute pop tunes that fit seamlessly into the current scheme of things. But no one will ever cite them as an influence or suggest that they were one of the prime movers in events going on around them.

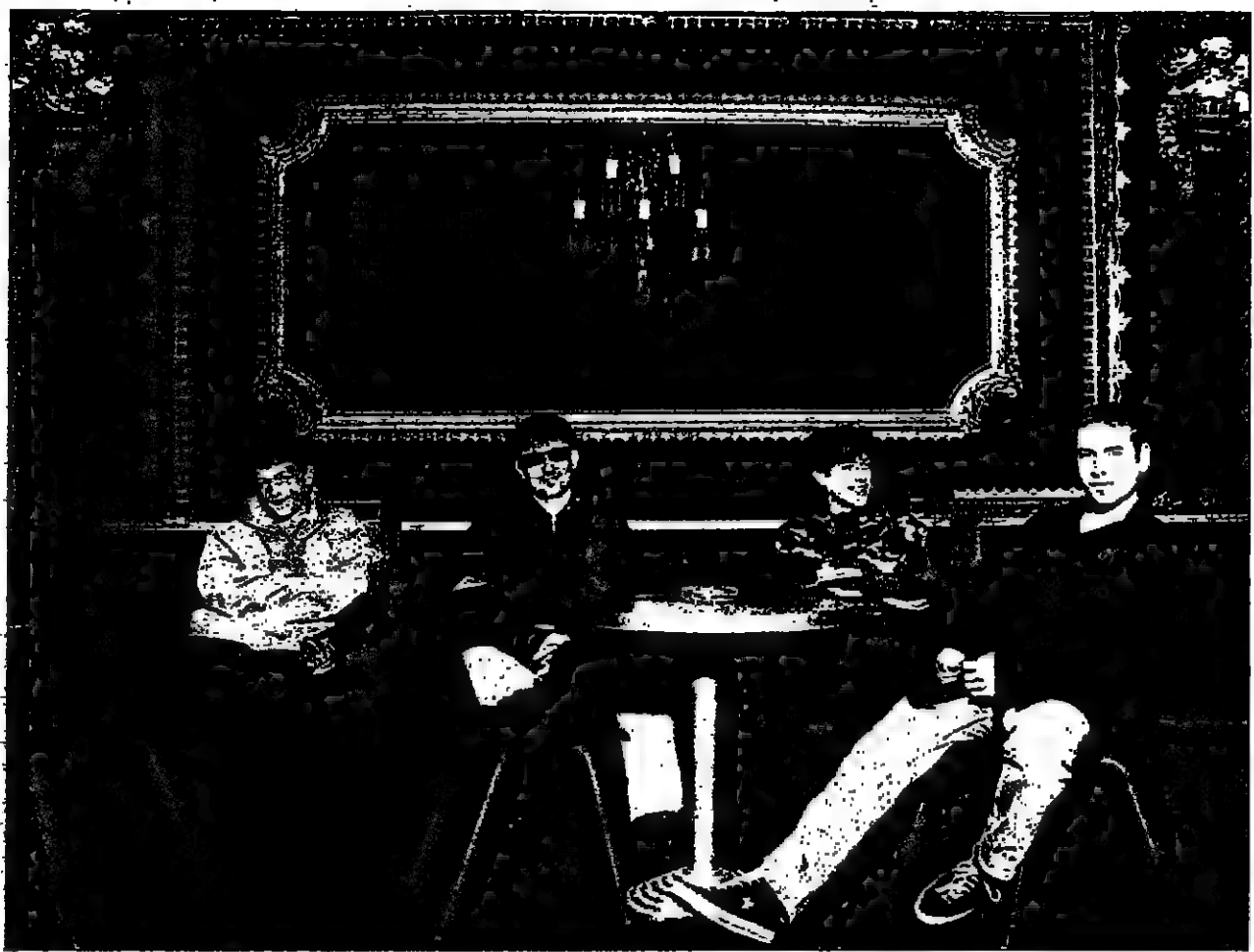
Like *Jettification* before it, *Dizzy Heights* is an undemanding collection of songs, crisply produced by Broudie, Simon Rogers and Dave Bascombe, that invite the listener to tap a toe or hum along, but which betray a lack of original inspiration.

Broudie's bright, personality-free singing style is perfectly suited to lyrics which sound dramatic, but actually say very little. "Instead of making me glad/it's driving me mad," he sings in *Fingers and Thumbs*, one of the more cleverly organised numbers.

Even when he does get his teeth into something more substantial, such as Nicky Wire's typically jangover lyric to *Waiting for Today to Happen* or the barbed musings of *Sugar Coated Iceberg* (co-written by Babybird), Broudie still makes the whole thing sound unerringly like business as usual.

RICK WRIGHT

Broken China (EMI 8 53645 £15.49)
FOREVER cast in the bridesmaid's role when it comes to writing for Pink Floyd, keyboard player Rick Wright makes his most determined bid yet to reach the altar with his third solo album. A slowly



Business as usual from Ian Broudie (second from left) and the Lightning Seeds on their latest waxing, *Dizzy Heights*

unfurling odyssey which explores the frankly unpromising theme of depression – from its childhood origins to the fragmentation of personality which ensues in adult life – *Broken China*'s sombre tone and measured gait will be familiar to Floyd fans, if a somewhat daunting prospect for anyone else.

The lyrics, written by former Floyd collaborator Anthony Moore, are sung for the most part by Wright apparently masquerading as an undertaker. Apart from a momentary uplift at the end,

they conjure an unremitting sense of gloom, and even Sinéad O'Connor, who sings two of the tracks, seems emo-

tionally overwhelmed by such dolorous lines as: "I know it's not terminal/But I'm near half-dead with fright/And

freezing cold." So, although sumptuously played and presented, this is not an album that brings much cheer, seasonal or otherwise.

KEVIN SALEM

Glimmer (Roadrunner RR 8877 £15.49)
A BLUESY guitar chord sidles up to the note, a reedy harmonica blows like the ghost of Dylan past, and then a throaty American voice starts singing: "They shoot down angels around here for laughs/Bury dark horses just for running past." Liberally laced with

soaring guitar breaks and bolstered by the rhythm guitar playing of Crazy Horse's Frank "Poncho" Sampedro, the song, which is called *Run Run Run*, is just about the perfect opening shot for an album of raw, old-fashioned, desperado rock'n'roll. It is certainly not the sort of thing you would expect to hear from a singer called Kevin.

Salem has played with a succession of critically acclaimed under-achievers, notably Dumptruck, Freddy Johnston and Yo La Tengo, as well as producing the debut album by Madder Rose. His second album in his own right, *Glimmer* fuses the songwriting craft of Paul Westerberg with the gung-ho spirit of vintage Neil Young (the album is produced by Young's former associate Niko Bolas).

While none of the ensuing tracks quite scale the dizzy heights of *Run Run Run*, there are some marvellous moments, especially on the slow, shambling ballad, *Trouble*, where glistening clusters of notes from David Mansfield's pedal steel fall like tears on the dusty ground.

JOHNNY CASH

Unchained (American 74321 39742 £13.99)
CONTINUING the unlikely renaissance that began with his 1994 album *American Recordings*, Johnny Cash here assembles possibly the most extraordinary range of material ever marshalled by a country singer of any vintage, and interprets it all brilliantly.

Presumably producer Rick Rubin can take the credit for introducing Cash to Beck's *Rowboat* and Soundgarden's *Rusty Cage*, both of which he ingeniously strips down to their bare essentials, and for encouraging him to revisit some of the material which inspired his earliest work, such as *The One Rose*, record-

ed by Jimmie Rodgers in 1932. But it is the indomitable Cash himself, ably supported by Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, who finds the nuggets of pure gold buried in so many unlikely places.

From the raw emotion of Josh Haden's *Spiritual* ("Jesus, oh Jesus, I don't wanna die alone") to the knockabout

humour of Geoff Mack's tongue-twisting *I've Been Everywhere*, Cash draws on every ounce of his experience, while displaying the performing vigour of a man half his age. *Unchained* is a tour de force, the like of which few of the younger country stars, let alone any of his contemporaries, could even contemplate.

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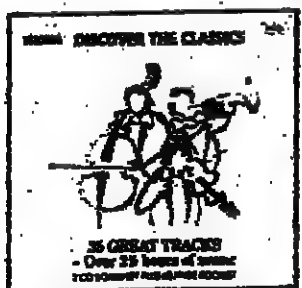
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LIGHTNING SEEDS DIZZY HEIGHTS

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"DIZZY HEIGHTS is pop music to hug even the hardest of souls." Time Out
"DIZZY HEIGHTS is, in every sense, a beautiful album" Melody Maker

AVAILABLE AT WH SMITH

Simon Midgley on Britain's apparent slide down the international mathematics league table

Are we failing by numbers?

Those who bemoan the state of mathematics in England's schools will have new and powerful ammunition next week. The main international comparisons in the subject will show pupils slipping back in relation to the rest of the world.

England will emerge as 3 per cent below the global average in the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, having been 3 per cent above the norm in 1990. Among industrialised nations, only the United States approaches our poor performance in basic areas such as algebra and number work.

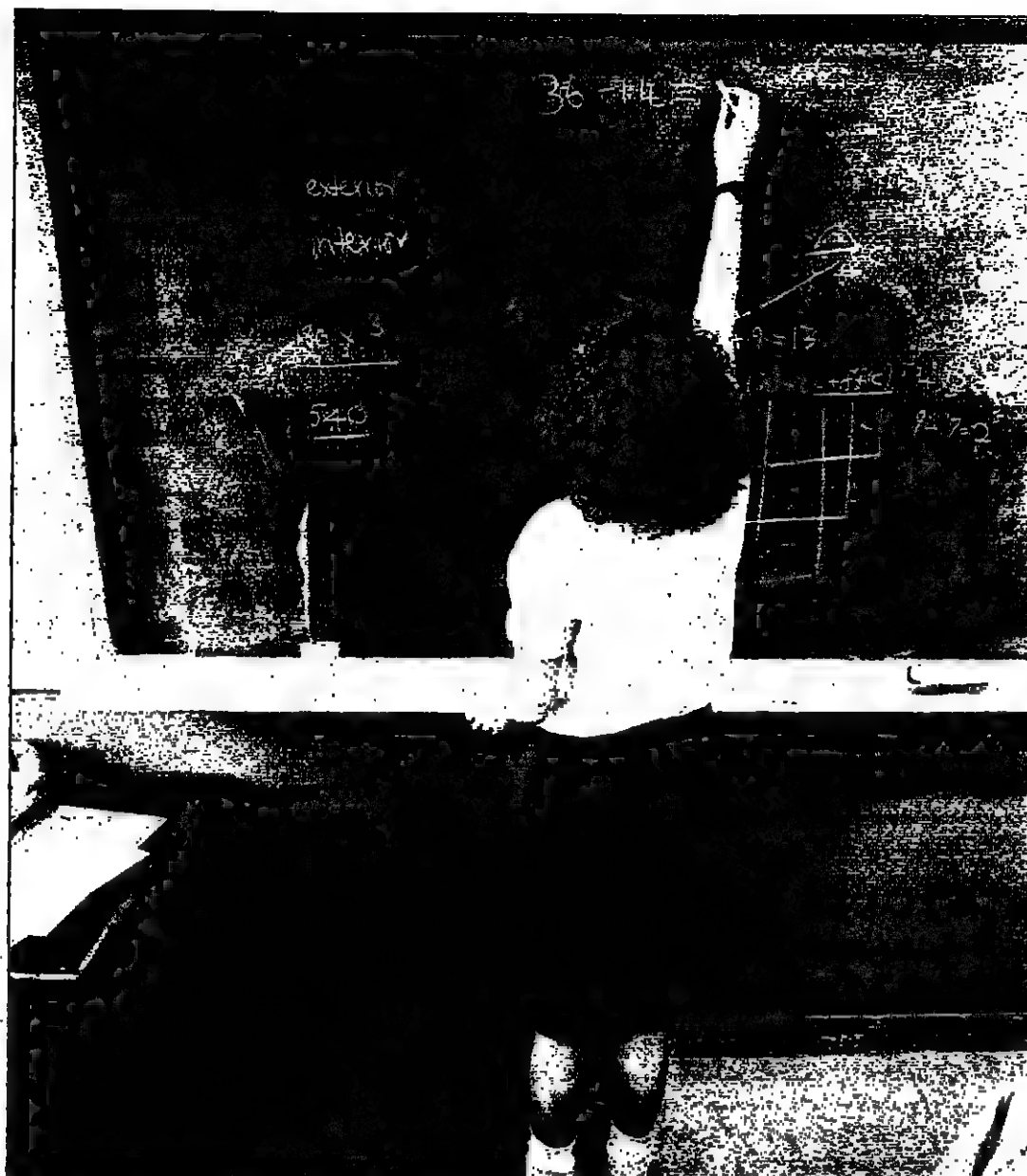
For some time there has been a widespread view that mathematics education is in crisis. Our schools, it is said, are producing pupils who are mathematically less able than their forebears, as well as their contemporaries abroad.

Children, so the critics would have us believe, are no longer able to do simple sums, and undergraduates lack many of the key mathematical skills they need to study science or maths at university level. The apparently parlous state of contemporary mathematics is usually contrasted unfavourably with its historic golden age when children were taught the basic core skills. This myth is invariably followed by respectful homage to be mathematical achievements of students in the Asian "tiger" economies of the Pacific Rim countries.

Does this grim and crudely simplified picture bear any resemblance to reality? The short answer seems to be yes and no. Last month's three-day symposium at the London University Institute of Education considered the state of mathematics education internationally. In particular it examined the question of how maths education needs to change if it is to provide the skills society will require in the new millennium.

Margaret Brown, of King's College London, highlighted the results of several studies in international achievement which showed that the vast majority of the population in the UK had a comparatively low attainment, either leaving school at 16 or following an unambitious curriculum, or staying on in education but studying no further mathematics.

In the new Asian economies, Professor Brown added, the emphasis given to mathematics com-



Of developed nations only America approaches our poor performance in algebra and number work

bined with the decision to educate all to the highest possible level produced a significantly greater number of people with higher levels of mathematical attainment. However, the same surveys also found that in the UK a small elite had a very high mathematical attainment on leaving school.

Richard Noss, Professor of Mathematics Education at the Institute of Education, says that several of the widespread concerns about mathematics education are

well founded and might well be a consequence of the obsession with national curriculum tests and examination league tables in schools.

Key areas of mathematics, he says, have more or less disappeared from the curriculum — geometry, for example, and the idea of mathematical truths. For all but the very brightest pupils there has been a loss of a strong mathematical culture. It is as if people had stopped reading 20th-century novels or were unable to

appreciate the music of 19th-century composers.

A recent London Mathematical Society report suggested that there was evidence that even the very brightest students coming into universities had difficulty in following chains of logical argument. They were good at answering well formed questions but relatively bad at following an argument through. Professor Noss says that he would not be surprised if the introduction of the national curricu-

lum in maths, examination league tables and national testing had reduced children's capacity to reason globally in maths and to develop a coherent view of maths as a way of thinking.

One of the effects of the national curriculum, he says, has been to break the maths curriculum into small fragments of knowledge which were then tested by single answer, right or wrong, easily marked examination questions. "It is hardly surprising if people do not emerge from their mathematics education with global reasoning skills and a coherent view of maths as a way of thinking."

Instead of national curriculum trammels, he adds, we need national curriculum guidelines to restore teachers' professionalism and creativity. School league tables should be abandoned in their current form, while retaining broad accountability to judge the success of the school system. Most importantly, Professor Noss believes that the status and professionalism of teachers must be restored, and their initial and in-service training improved.

At the seminar, lecturers from Taiwan and Korea expressed concern that mathematics education in their own countries emphasised computational skills, the manipulation of symbols and the memorisation of sets of rules to solve problems at the expense of encouraging students' ability to think creatively and develop mathematical solutions to problems they have not encountered before.

Britain, despite being outperformed by the Pacific Rim nations in many basic mathematical skills, does very well in creative, problem-solving mathematics. This talent for creative maths, Professor Noss says, may simply be nurtured by the existence in Britain of a generation of teachers who still teach maths as a creative subject.

Paradoxically, it appears, mathematical educators in several of the Pacific Rim nations are deeply envious of Britain's ability to nurture creative mathematicians and have profound reservations about their own nations' rote-teaching approach to maths. In Britain, meanwhile, many politicians and some teachers look enviously at the computational achievements of students in the Far East. There is something, it seems, to be learnt from both approaches.

Parlez-vous Franglais?

Modern methods of teaching foreign languages are threatening standards

One of last summer's GCSE French papers included a Burger King advertisement depicting two burgers. The slogan was "Whopper Achetez un Whopper Gratuit". The candidate has to explain in English what the special offer is.

It is now compulsory for every secondary pupil to study a modern foreign language from the age of 11. Yet if this is really the standard we expect our 16-year-olds to have reached after five years of teaching, surely something has gone wrong?

I still have my 1963 O-level French paper. It required me, among other things, to translate the far from straightforward sentence: "The whole family had come in the car to meet her and they all introduced themselves."

The French/English translations include examples of the subjunctive mood and of the past historic tense.

I was taught the agreement of the preceding direct object — *La robe que j'ai vue* — at around 13 and, well grounded in general grammar, recall no difficulty with it whatsoever. One of the current GCSE syllabuses describes the PDO rule as: "... a structure which even French pupils find difficult. Although most pupils taking the examination will not be expected to produce this correctly, where pupils do use it, this will be taken into consideration."

Who says standards haven't declined? Comparing the rigour of an O-level modern language course with the transactional triviality of GCSE clearly indicates the insidious lowering of expectations in recent years.

My generation was systematically equipped to use French — and/or other languages — in any situation: formal as well as casual. We were therefore well prepared to embark later on the

reading of classic French texts in French, if we wished. Doors were pushed open for us.

GCSE modern languages teaching emphasises speaking and listening in "relevant" situations. Oral examinations are all strictly geared to specific, and precisely laid down, settings such as school, shopping, or food and drink.

The vocabulary lists which most GCSE boards produce are dangerous things. As soon as you catalogue the words which are required learning then you legitimise the perception that no student need know any words beyond the list. The more we knew the better, our teachers believed. Real education mattered as much as passing the exam. And, for the record, I didn't take French, or any other language, beyond O level.

What seems to have disappeared from school modern languages teaching — as from so much else in education — is precision, accuracy and depth. Translation into the target language, always the acid test, has gone. Much "reading" is just pictures with captions and, of course, the wonderful discipline instilled by the old dictation paper is ancient history.

Small wonder that John Gordon, of the University of East Anglia, reports soberly that of a recent intake of undergraduates reading German a mere eight out of 43 could translate the sentence "The teacher gave the pupil the book" into German. Only four could manage "I prefer to drink strong coffee". Teaching every child in the land a modern foreign language is a deceptively attractive egalitarian idea.

In practice it seems to mean a shameful lowering of standards so that everyone can be included. What is a GCSE in a modern foreign language actually worth now?



SUSAN ELKIN

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When the parts are greater than the whole



Tests taken before the end of a course have the advantage of getting pupils to work harder earlier

A survey of about 300 senior independent schools has found that most are in favour of modular A levels. No doubt sceptics will greet the news with derision, but there were good educational reasons for the schools' support.

The survey confirmed that students taking modular A levels achieve slightly higher grades than pupils taking the traditional "linear" route. But the schools, which included some of the most academically successful in Britain, generally did not subscribe to the barrage of criticism which has been directed at the new style of course.

The main objection to modular A levels appears to be that candidates take exams in bite-sized chunks. "Try a little bit of this exam" ran one mocking headline recently, suggesting that any examination taken in parts is less rigorous than one taken at a single sitting. But there is nothing new about taking exams in ways other than by a battery of papers at the end of the course. Extended essays, project work and course work are all long established as legitimate forms of examination. The crucial point, as the survey emphasises, is that any test taken before the end of a course has the advantage of encouraging pupils to work harder earlier.

Standards rise accordingly. This is what so many people remote from the classroom fail to grasp. They seem obsessed with the

Peter Chappell challenges the notion that modular A-levels are lowering standards

idea that an exam which enables more people to achieve a high standard must, in fact, be lowering standards. Why do they not see that an exam influences a child's work habits — just as a good teacher can influence them — and thus can raise standards? The best exams are not only rigorous tests but also good teachers.

The point is underlined by James Miller, Headmaster of Newcastle Royal Grammar School and conductor of the recent survey which records the responses of heads and senior staff. "Those individuals are very experienced and, in the main, distinctly sceptical about current fads," he says. "Most of them started from a position that was strongly opposed to modular innovations."

Of course there are some snags to be ironed out. Taking too many early modules, for instance, can put undue pressure on pupils and care needs to be taken to ensure that an early exam in one subject does not disrupt a pupil's work in another.

What is particularly damaging, however, is the ignorant view that modular A levels are somehow easier. In fact, the reverse is just as likely because the exam boards quite properly insist that those who take a module early will still be

judged by the standard applied to those taking that same module at the end of the course.

My English department's case is interesting because in the majority of instances it is maths and science departments which are embracing modular courses. Initially we resisted "modularity" on the ground that maturity in English is crucial. The better read a candidate is, the better he or she can respond to any question on any text.

We have also begun to appreciate that modularity makes it easier for schools to offer options within courses, a facility which encourages pupils' motivation. We were keen to build into our A-level English literature course a theatre project option. This would appeal to those who wanted to stick to a combination of traditional A levels but who also wanted to express their interest in plays as texts for performance. Now our pupils take one module early. A choice of options is then available to them in their second year, which is easier for us to manage properly because one core part of the syllabus is out of the way.

With 90 per cent A and B grades this year and none below C for

three years running, we have certainly not made this switch through dissatisfaction with the grades our candidates have been achieving by the traditional route.

Not only are the main arguments against modular A levels thus quite unfounded, they are also motivated by assumptions about falling standards as a whole.

For three good reasons those assumptions are misplaced, despite what the impending government inquiry report on A-level standards is going to tell us.

First, children know better than ever that the world is more competitive. Good grades are necessary to reach desired destinations. Secondly, each year the examinees are increasingly the children of parents who themselves took higher examinations. At home there is greater awareness of the support needed for examination success.

Finally, teachers are better equipped to help, guide and motivate their pupils. For instance, choosing the right A-level subjects was once a very haphazard affair and quality careers advice almost non-existent. All that has largely changed and is improving all the time. In the classroom, too, there has been change, stimulated by improved exams, in an effort to get the best out of our children. Modular exams are just one source of such stimulation.

●The author is head of English at Malvern College.

The cane was once a useful deterrent

Andrew Collier on an effective, but now dated, punishment

The horror on a boy's face the other day, when he heard that I had used the cane, clinched my position in the debate on corporal punishment.

I did indeed use it, or the slipper, as those then in authority did, on rare and, I suspect, not very painful occasions. I would not have abolished its use, but I do not believe we can bring it back in the present climate. To argue for it in certain quarters would label me merely a backwoodsman. But to be seen as a monster is something different, and the misunderstandings in this view are too deep-rooted for restoration to be a practical option.

What today's pupils cannot understand is that it was as well understood a sanction as today's politically correct, properly agreed equivalents. Probably better. It was the known punishment for certain offences where something short and sharp seemed appropriate. This was unlikely to include bullying, the problems of which always were more serious and deep-rooted. Similarly, theft and dishonesty were usually too complex for so blunt a response.

It was usually used to punish unacceptable behaviour and rule-breaking, which needed dealing with and forgetting. Today's everyday obscenities were then quite unacceptable, and in that climate, a "quick six" was preferable to suspension.

I believe the boys I beat knew the risks they took and what to expect. I did not shake hands or offer the so easily ridiculed "it hurts me as much as it does you" line, although I always ensured afterwards that the intention to "put it behind us" had worked.

I also know that it gave me no pleasure and allowed my reluctance to resort to this sanction to impose a moment of critical reflection into the business of the day. This seriousness, coupled with its rarity, made it a real deterrent and symbol of authority and right.

As today's history books describe a horrifyingly frequent use of cane, ruler or slipper in the inevitably "bad old days", it is unlikely that today's pupils will understand. I am also conscious that my experience, as teacher and pupil, was mild. I only inherited stories of regimes where the cane was in daily use, although I have met those who feel that their schooldays were blighted by it. They are to be taken more seriously than any of the "it never did me any harm" clichés, because their feelings are real.

I believe they are the exception, but there is no doubt that a number of heads and teachers did cane excessively, with little thought and, sometimes, with excessive delight. To them we owe the abolition and the horror which makes it irreversible. But I think it is

important to understand that historically it was not always, and theoretically need not be, the obscene scandal now usually portrayed.

I also think it important to expose some of the glibber arguments against corporal punishment, not least the often repeated variations on "How can one condemn violence in general while condoning it as punishment?" To adapt, one might as well say that we cannot tell the thief that because he took someone's possessions we intend to dispossess (fine, stop pocket money) him. Punishment is only so defined if it is unpleasant and comes from and with authority; anything else is trivial or kinky.

Anyway, we cannot at this time restore corporal punishment. First, because public attitudes and perceptions have moved on. Opponents (and some practitioners) have succeeded in giving the cane such a horrible image that the old understandings are no longer possible. Today's children know their rights, understand the term "abuse" (although happily most, still, have never witnessed it), and have been taught to question all authority. We all recognise the pluses in this, but there is a price. And, while changed attitudes mean that some find the notion of corporal punishment sinister and scandalously unacceptable, there are significant problems at the other end of the mood change — violence against teachers is a relatively new phenomenon, at least at a serious level.

How would the cane-wielding teacher fare against the thugs and gangs resolved to defend or avenge their cruelties? Do we want to fuel further playground wars and draw schools deeper into the confused area of condemning violence in any form?

Secondly, although corporal punishment was not illegal in independent schools, most abandoned it when it became unacceptable to some parents. You cannot run a fair system with double standards, punishing the same offence differently because of parental attitudes. This problem would now be insuperable: even a Cabinet full of Gillian Shephards would be unlikely to refuse parents a right to opt out.

Finally, the case against restoration wins because most schools have proved they can cope without it. Discipline has not broken down everywhere. Yes, standards have changed, probably slipped, and attitudes to authority are not what they were. But there are a thousand reasons for this and most children still strive to avoid punishment. I believe the caning issue is an irrelevance. A political distraction and an election red herring.

●The writer is a former head teacher

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NURSERY EDUCATION

Windfall reveals lottery of how sports bodies are run

WHILE the Sports Council of England was yesterday belatedly announcing the availability of a £40 million National Lottery package for sports federations, coaches and competitors in preparation for leading events and especially the Olympic Games, the future structure of British sports administration was being seriously questioned.

Lord MacLaurin, the man appointed to head some sense into the chairman of the new, but as yet dormant, United Kingdom Sports Council, spoke of the situation remaining "thoroughly unsatisfactory". Professor Peter Radford, the executive chairman of the British Athletic Federation, while he welcomed the initiative yesterday, stated that the relative positions of the UK body and the old England Sports Council was "upside down".

"It's good to have all this money going into sport," Lord MacLaurin said yesterday, "but it clearly shows that things are still being handled

The effect of new funds, David Miller says, is jeopardised by out-dated administration

by the old Sports Council, which should have been out of operation a year ago. This should have been the work of the UK Council.

The plan by which the UK body, which has yet to have a formal meeting more than a year after its formation, is dependent on the four regional

al-bodies (England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland) for its funding, might have been devised by the cartoonist, Emmet, Lord MacLaurin admits that he is exasperated by the bureaucracy and the delays in getting the new policy-determining body into action.

"I've not been in government work in this way before," he said. "It's frustrating and very different from my everyday existence. We were to have operated from January this year, and now I suppose it will be January next year."

"If you were looking at the structure of British sport as a business, you would have a holding board and executive directors. It would have been best if we'd sat down before the present structure was formulated. The UK council has representatives of the four regional bodies, plus the British Olympic Association and others, and is the stron-

est body of sports people in the country. If I was in charge, I'd give the [major] responsibility to that body, tell them to get on with it. If they didn't succeed, they'd be fired."

What the leader of one of Great Britain's most successful chain stores does not appreciate is the extent to which the regional councils are not in the business of improving British sport, but in castle-building on public money and protecting themselves.

"I can fully understand the frustration of sports people," Lord MacLaurin said before the funding announcement yesterday, which is in effect a vast blanket-bath in which there will be enormous waste through indiscriminate awards. Lord MacLaurin is conscious that the UK council will lack the budget-power to make things work in those areas which it considers require priority.

He is optimistic that a meeting this week with Ian Sproule, the Minister for Sport, and the four regional councils may perhaps accelerate the action. The problem with the announcement yesterday is that the allocation of funds will not become operative until next year, too late to make much impact upon the Olympic Games in Sydney in 2000; certainly too late for athletes struggling to make ends meet in their preparation for the world indoor championships in March.

Radford, who attended the cash launch yesterday, was pleased with the adjustment of lottery policy, permitting funding for preparation as well as structural facilities, but insisted: "We've got to get the system right. We are still talking parochially, and it is going to hurt us. We need to plan and think on a UK basis. The UK council should lead."

Sir Rodney Walker, the chairman of what was yesterday still calling itself the Sports Council, claimed that 4,500 competitors would benefit from the funding, though he admitted: "It's not a quick fix but long term." The first cheque will not be sent out until next February.

Sports Council has an economic viewpoint.

However, the council, which is empowered by the Government to distribute lottery money, will be loathe to be seen giving money to high-profile competitors rather than people such as Janine Whitlock, the British record-holder for the women's pole vault. Last season, her family in Liverpool spent £6,500 in supporting her athletic ambition. Her sole money goes largely towards paying the petrol to travel to her coach in Stoke. She said: "It will mean that I can do warm-weather training and prepare better for my event."

Paul Palmer, the 400 metres swimming silver medal-winner at the Olympics Games in Atlanta, warned that it might take eight to 12 years before the effect was felt in British sport.

Lord MacLaurin: frustrated

BAF opposed to means testing

By JOHN GOODBODY

BRITISH competitors and officials yesterday welcomed the £40 million annual package of National Lottery money that will help them in their preparation for Olympic Games and international events.

However, the British Athletic Federation (BAF) said that it would be arguing with the Sports Council that the lottery money, which has been earmarked for training, travelling, coaching and living expenses, should not be "means tested".

Professor Peter Radford, the BAF executive chairman, said that he wanted competitors such as Linford Christie, Colin Jackson and Sally Gunnell to receive funding, although they can make hundreds of thousands of pounds through sponsorship.

Details of the scheme were announced yesterday after five

Government changed the lottery regulations in April to allow revenue as well as capital funding.

Radford said that he was delighted that the money will be worth an average of £15,000 for 4,500 competitors over a range of sports. However, he was concerned that it would become available only next March, with six months' post-Olympic preparation time being lost.

However, he said: "All athletes should have the ability to accept this money. For some to be given the opportunity and others not would be divisive in all teams. Competitors who do not receive the money will say, quite rightly, 'Why should I help the national team? Who is helping me?'"

"The present scheme will isolate people and will be a major talking point. The

present scheme will isolate people and will be a major talking point. The

present scheme will isolate people and will be a major talking point. The

present scheme will isolate people and will be a major talking point. The



Faldo puts on the 4th green during an opening burst that took him four shots clear

Lehman halts Faldo charge

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

TOM LEHMAN, the Open champion, overhauled a four-shot deficit to take a one-stroke lead over Nick Faldo, the Masters champion, and Steve Jones, the US Open champion, in the rain-delayed PGA Grand Slam of Golf in Hawaii yesterday. The winners of golf's four majors this year completed a round-and-a-half of the scheduled 36-hole tournament at the Popu Bay Resort course, leaving nine holes to be played today.

Faldo, of Great Britain, had completed the first 18 holes one stroke ahead of Lehman, who then birdied four of the next six holes en route to a 32, four under par. Lehman finished the day on 100, eight under par.

Faldo, who celebrated his third win at Augusta this year, completed the last nine holes in 34 for a 101. Jones produced the best nine-hole stretch of the day, including six birdies, for a 31, five under par, that put him level with Faldo. The fourth member of the elite group, Mark Brooks, the US PGA champion, was on 109 for the 27 holes.

Faldo appeared to have matters well in hand through the first 12 holes, at which stage he was six under par and four strokes ahead of Lehman and Jones. Lehman said: "I think Nick gave us a little break after running away with it after 12 holes in the morning."

Catriona Matthew, of Scotland, had a career-best round of eight under par to take a one-stroke lead on the opening day of the Australian Ladies Masters. Her 65 was only one off the course record, held by Laura Davies, of England, who kept in touch yesterday with a 67.

While the rain that wiped out the scheduled opening round on Tuesday stayed away, the course remained wet and soggy and the players were allowed to lift, clean and place their balls on the fairway. "If it's a decent day tomorrow, I think you're going to see a lot of birdies and a lot of low scores," Lehman said. "I played well and putted

well today. I like my chances tomorrow."

Lee Westwood, of Britain, yesterday shot a 67, four under par, to finish the first day of Dunlop Phoenix tournament in Miyazaki, Japan, one shot off the lead, which was held by Tom Watson, Joe Oaki, of Japan, shared second place, one shot ahead of his brother, Jumbo.

Westwood's performance, which was in keeping with a surge of form that took him to sixth place on the European Tour money-list this year, earned a glowing recommendation from Watson, 47. "Lee's a good player and I like his action," he said. "He's a good putter and he's 23 years old. I'd trade places with him."

Westwood's only blemish came on the par-five 18th, when a blatant attempt to match Jumbo Oaki's power off the tee resulted in his ball landing 30 yards off line. Although he salvaged par — while Watson earned the birdie that edged him in front — Westwood was left to rue his rush of blood. "The recklessness of youth, I suppose," he said.

GOLF

Clayton's fall comes before his pride

By SIMON WILDE

IT IS rare, outside the closing stages of a major championship, for professional golfers to crowd round a television to watch one of their colleagues at work, but they crammed into the commentary box in Sydney yesterday to watch Mike Clayton play the 14th green in the Australian PGA Championship — again, and again, and again. The box became their 19th hole and they drank tears of laughter.

Clayton, a veteran of 15 seasons on the European Tour, unwittingly produced one of the most bizarre incidents seen in a professional tournament. He struck a ten-foot putt and was urging it towards the hole with an elaborate gesture when the putter slipped from his hand.

The ball stopped two inches from the hole but the putter tumbled towards it. Clayton did the only thing he could and dived after it, but he succeeded only in knocking the club into the ball. To compound his embarrassment, Clayton, prostrate on the ground with arms outstretched beside the hole, saw the ball roll into his elbow.

The incident left Trevor Herden, the tour operations manager, with a difficult decision. In the end, he correctly applied rule 18.2 (a), "Ball at rest moved", which states that, if a competitor's ball is accidentally struck by himself, his partner, their caddies or equipment, he shall incur a one-stroke penalty. However, had the ball been in motion when it was struck by the putter, Clayton would have incurred a two-stroke penalty.

The incident may have amused the players, but it raised few smiles among those who guard the game's rules. "A golfer is deemed to be responsible for his equipment at all times," Paul Jelly, of the English Golf Union, said.

"If the equipment interferes with the ball, he incurs a penalty, even in the unusual situation of the equipment being detached from its owner at the time. Had a player, say, dropped his towel on the green, and then seen it blown by the wind into the ball and moved it, the same rule would apply."

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CRICKET: UNCAPPED MEMBER OF TOURING PARTY WILL NOT LET ENGLAND DOWN

New man sure to make most of opportunity

Simon Wilde meets Chris Silverwood, the Yorkshire seam bowler, as he prepares for the trip to Zimbabwe

When a new face comes onto the international sporting stage, it is easy to imagine its owner as fresh to the world and forget the hours of solitary practice, the setbacks and the penalty that led him or her from darkness into light.

So it is with Chris Silverwood, the only uncapped member of the England cricket team that leaves for Zimbabwe later this month. Of course, we think it is all happening to him for the first time: he is only 21, looks 18 and is going on tour just for the experience.

In fact, Silverwood has experienced quite a lot already, having been on the uncertain road to the top for ten years now. Cricketing life began for him with bumpy Friday night rides in a minibus from Garforth comprehensive, his school in Leeds, to net sessions in Pontefract, an enthusiastic teacher being convinced that he deserved encouragement. The weekly journeys continued throughout four winters.

As Pontefract, Silverwood came under the eye of John Pearson, then working as a cricket coach for Leeds Leisure Services and now a regional development officer with Yorkshire. "What I first noticed about Chris was that he was far bigger than the other boys of his age, so I immediately put him into a net with some older ones," Pearson said.

"The next thing that struck me was his absolute will to succeed. When he accomplished one thing, all he wanted to know was: 'What do I do next?'"

Pearson was responsible for Silverwood moving clubs from his native Kippax to Castleford, who played in the Yorkshire League; and, for a 15-year-old up against men, he acquired himself well.

Silverwood left school at 16 and went to Headingley on a Youth Training Scheme, but, for some reason, was not given a trial with the Yorkshire Schools team. However, he was also attending the Yorkshire Academy, in Bradford, where Pearson also coached and kept

his spirits up. "I'm not the only one to have helped him, but he usually came back to me when things were not going so well," Pearson said.

Within two years, Silverwood was making his Yorkshire debut, but there were to be further setbacks. When the 1996 season began, he was still not an established member of the side and was stung to be omitted from Yorkshire's opening championship match.

His response was typical. "One thing about this," he told friends at the time, "once I do get in, they won't get me out again." He was right: he soon took five wickets in a one-day match and, from there, there was no looking back. He finished the summer with 47 wickets at 30.68 each and outbowed all his fellow seamers, including Darren Gough, who stands ahead of him in the England pecking order.

Silverwood readily acknowledges his debt to Pearson, but he also received unstinting support from his mother. His parents separated when he was four, since when he has seen little of his father, but his mother has turned her hand to countless jobs to help her son to fulfil his potential. When Pearson gave him lifts home after nets, Silverwood invariably asked to be dropped off at the chip shop in Kippax, where she worked in the evenings.

While he has attracted headlines for the unusual aspects to his life — being a black belt at karate and a teetotaler, for instance — it is the way that Silverwood embraced the years of mundane learning, and took the most out of them, that is impressive. He has worked hard on his fitness in Cape Town over the past three winters and at home recently, and now has greater stamina and an extra zip to his bowling.

Silverwood attributes his advancement this year to all the work that went before. "I think I have matured," he said during England's training camp in Portugal last week. "I have learnt to cope with situations and know now when to bowl line and length." In days past, he was inclined to spray the ball around, but he rejects the notion that he is a willing foil for more explosive fast bowlers operating at the other end. "I see myself as just as dangerous as Dominik Cork or Darren Gough."



Silverwood was the pick of the Yorkshire seamers during the summer

far from over. Limited though his opportunities may be this winter, he knows he can only benefit. "He is a thinking bowler," Pearson said. "He has worked out how to get his wickets in the past and I'm sure he will do that for England. No doubt on tour he will listen to advice, but he will sort out for himself what works and what doesn't."

Glamorgan appoint Fletcher as coach

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

GLAMORGAN have appointed Duncan Fletcher, the South African, as their coach for next summer. Fletcher will take up the post at the end of the South African season and will be with Glamorgan until September 16, when he will resume his present position with Western Province.

"I have agreed a one-year contract with a provisional arrangement for a second year," he said. "They approached me and it has been a long-held ambition of mine to coach in Britain."

Fletcher, who was born in Zimbabwe, is widely regarded as the best provincial coach in

South Africa. He was with the A team on their tour of England in July and August when they defeated Glamorgan in three days.

Warwickshire are investigating reports that Allan Donald could miss the start of next season because South Africa's domestic knock-out cup competition continues to the end of April. This could lead to a tug of war between Free State, Donald's province, and his English county, who say that he is contracted to be at Edgbaston from April 1.

Dennis Amiss, the Warwickshire chief executive, said: "We have spoken to his agent and he is attempting to clarify the situation as soon as

he can contact Allan in India, where he is on tour. Allan has signed a contract with us and we would like him to honour that."

Matthew Hart, the all-rounder, has been recalled to the New Zealand party for the tour of Pakistan. Hart, 24, who has played in 14 Tests, was a surprise omission from a 26-man New Zealand training squad named in August, but he has been called up because of a hand injury to Mark Haslam, the South African left-arm wrist spin bowler. Hart will leave for Pakistan today, surprised by his sudden elevation. "I was totally stunned," he said.

New Zealand are in Sharjah at present, needing to improve

their performance dramatically if they are to stop a confident Pakistan in the final of the Singer Champions' Trophy tournament today.

The tournament has provided the New Zealanders — who are flying straight to Pakistan afterwards for a Test and a one-day series — an ideal warm-up to build a strong combination for the tough battles ahead. Steve Rixon, the New Zealand coach, said: "Paul Adams, the South African left-arm wrist spin bowler, took four wickets for 68 on his return for Western Province after a three-month injury lay-off in their Supersport Series four-day match against Border at Newlands yesterday."

SWIMMING

Snelling to get food for thought

By CRAIG LORD

SIX weeks into his job as Great Britain's first national performance director, Deryk Snelling is about to be baptised into a domestic competition scene that he hopes will provide the pillars to prop up his theory for making champions.

The theory is simple: take a dozen or so internationalists, nurture their talent and provide them with scientific backup and the lifestyle grants needed for full-time "professional" athletes, then watch them float into the top ten in the world. The juniors will aspire to the new standard and rise accordingly.

For the next three days, the St Margaret's Baths, Leicester, plays host to the first of four qualifying rounds of the Speedo British grand prix, the final of which will be held in Sheffield next May.

One of the leading swimmers on view will be Adam Ruckwood, the Commonwealth champion at 200 metres backstroke. Ruckwood went to the Olympic Games as an outside medal hope, but failed to make the final.

After Atlanta, he took a two-month break before discussing with Mike Hepworth, his new coach, what had gone wrong. Ruckwood believed that his programme had changed in the year before Atlanta, when Tim Jones had been coaching him. The aim now is to return to some of the work that helped him in 1995 and before. He is hoping for a sub two-minute swim this weekend when his rivals will include Neil Willey and Adrian O'Connor.

Whereas Ruckwood will have plenty of competition, many of the best will not, an issue that will get Snelling food for thought. For instance, the only real challenge in Britain to Susan Rolph at sprint freestyle is Karen Pickering, who prefers to race in district events until the national championships. Such decisions mean that the grand prize fails to provide the tough racing that it was designed to produce.

Olympic competitors such as James Hickman, Mark Foster and Paul Palmer will be absent this weekend. All three prefer to train away from the limelight and, when they race in December, they will not have been race-tested for five months.

Rugby must seize opportunity

From Mr S. E. Turner

Sir, By the time this rugby union season is completed, it appears that the northern hemisphere countries will have wasted almost two complete seasons in the aftermath of the 1995 World Cup. During that time, the much vaunted Super 12 series, a logical progression from the Ranfurly Shield and Currie Cups, has been launched in the southern hemisphere in direct contrast, all that has been achieved on the other side of the equator has been a shambolic and inept approach to the onset of professional rugby.

There is one basic truism which the administrators and senior clubs in England seem to have forgotten, namely that international rugby is the lifeblood of the game. The trend towards establishing super clubs ignores the fact that the newly established English game is developing and honing the skills of the various foreign imports in the teams, to the detriment of many young English players (if there is any doubt, just look at English cricket). Therefore, the desire of the clubs to play matches against touring teams is not driven by altruistic desires to improve playing standards for the national team, but is merely a commercial necessity.

The finest example of current rugby organisation from limited resources is undoubtedly Australia, where the game is primarily played in Queensland and New South Wales, who are also the major rugby league states. They have a strong club system, but have consistently given total support to the provincial and state concept. The other major advantage in provincial rugby is the ability of national selectors to monitor and influence the playing standards of their own players; it is axiomatic that this has reaped its own rewards in the performance of the southern hemisphere countries and provinces in all competitions.

It is quite possible for the northern hemisphere countries to have a similar, indeed better, system, however, to that it is essential to have a pan-European approach. To this end, all five major northern hemisphere countries must have a coherent and compatible season. A ten-club first division, a new European divisional competition, a reduced European club cup, domestic cups and international could be scheduled

into a 35-week season with eight midweek games.

However, unless the administrators and clubs produce a coherent package that will enable all European clubs, countries and international teams to release players across the board at specific times of the season, we should all prepare ourselves for a long wait before a northern hemisphere team ever lifts the Webb Ellis trophy.

Yours etc.
S. E. TURNER,
Glenrose, Gordon Road,
Curdridge, Hampshire.

From Mr R. B. Callaghan
Sir, The present dispute between English clubs and the Rugby Football Union (RFU) is not the first time that the RFU has been challenged. The first time was 100 years ago with its disagreement with the Northern Union which eventually spawned the Rugby League.

The RFU's intransigence split the union then through trying to stop the players being recompensed for loss of a day's earnings. Now, it is trying to control players whose earnings will be £25,000-50,000 and within years the top players will be in the £1 million per year bracket.

Sir John Hall is portrayed as the villain in the piece, but he is a man of vision, as is Rupert Murdoch, one of the major backers of sport worldwide. All they are trying to do is pay the players as every other sport in the world does. This is something the RFU has steadfastly refused to allow.

The RFU created rugby league through its authoritarian attitude and rugby league, with its superb athletes, eventually forced the union code to turn professional.

The RFU says it is concerned about the amount of money that will be available for the smaller clubs. The thousands of pounds it is paying Sir Tina Bell to defend the stance it has taken would have been very helpful to the smaller clubs.

Events are moving too quickly for the amateurs of Twickenham and it is time for them to stand aside and let the men of vision take the sport into the 21st century — or will they desperately try to cling to power for another 100 years?

Yours sincerely,
R. B. CALLAGHAN,
Ocean View, Anstey Way,
Instow, Devon.

Capital expenses

From Mr J. D. Lynch

Sir, I recently applied to Wembley for tickets to the England World Cup qualifying matches. To get tickets for the England v Italy match, you must also purchase tickets for England v Georgia and England v Moldova.

Being from the North, besides the cost of the tickets for myself and my son, I will incur the following costs: two days off work for each match, two days off school for my son (travel down Wednesday and get home at 4.5pm on Thursday or stay in a motel overnight and travel back the next day), plus the cost of three return journeys to the capital. It is different if you live in London: no days off work as they are evening games, a trip on the Tube, no days off school, no travel expenses.

In their wisdom, the gentlemen of the FA and the Lottery

are apparently going to build the new national stadium at Wembley. How can they say it is for all the country?

Over the past years, the majority of trophies have gone to northern clubs; the Premiership has been won only by northern clubs. Look too at the attendances at Old Trafford, Anfield, St James' Park and Goodison Park, which show how many football followers there are in the North. Show me four London venues with the attendances to match these.

I have not mentioned Aston Villa, Nottingham Forest or Leeds United. All would find a centrally-sited, true national stadium beneficial for their fans. Ironically, I'm a Newcastle supporter, but I'm plumping for Manchester — in fact anywhere but London.

Yours sincerely,
J. D. LYNCH,
110 Westbrooke Avenue,
Hastings.

Recorded catch

From Mr Lynn Hughes

Sir, I must correct Brian Clarke on a detail in his article on record catches (November 14). Some years ago, I was invited to read, in her own school, the first-hand account (in the library at Glenelg House) of her marathon struggle with that 64lb British record salmon and the story is somewhat different.

It had, by any standards, already been a remarkable day's fishing when Georgina took a lift from the Tay bridge with her father on the boat in which the laird, Alan Lyle, had taken three porthouse salmon, the largest in excess of

40lb. He had gone home to celebrate his career best. Here was yet to come.

In line with Brian Clarke's article, the catch was more of an accident than a telling. She at first received a telling-off from her father, head keeper on the estate, for getting the troll snagged up — until it began, most assuredly, to move upstream.

The flesh of that remarkable fish was given to the local hospital, but its skin cast is mounted on the wall of the billiard room, where it ruins the game of every true "disciple of the angle".

Yours faithfully,
LYNN HUGHES,
Dany-Bont, Drefach,
Llanelli, Carmarthenshire.

Giant of football

From Mr Edward Grayson

Sir, Danny Blanchflower's unique thinking and leadership, recalled so vividly by David Miller (November 12), were not confined to playing fields.

At a time when players' wages were capped and professional football was regarded as socially and collectively inferior to rugby union, he brought an original dignity, style and respect off the field alongside his skilful playing talents.

John Freeman's *Face to Face* television series saw him give a performance that bore comparison with the great

advocate and judge, Lord Birkett. When the BBC attempted to intrude upon his privacy in *This Is Your Life*, he walked off stage sensationally. When he exposed football's growing problems in a regular newspaper column, Arsenal banned him from the press box. He inspired all generations with his leadership at all levels. We shall never see his like again.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD GRAYSON,
9-12 Bell Yard, WC2.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 01753 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Cricket takes harsh stance

From Mr R. T. Drane

Sir, Viewing recent events from a completely detached position, I cannot help contrasting in my mind the treatment of problem players in our two leading sports, football and cricket.

Leaving aside the manner in which problems come to light (voluntary disclosure, media probing, routine testing, etc.) what appears to happen in football is that club and governing body rally to support of the player by continuing to pay him handsomely, offering counselling, advice, loyalty and even rehabilitation into the national team.

Contrast this with the case of Ed Giddins, the former Sussex cricketer. I have admired him as an excellent cricketer with a seemingly ideal sporting temperament. Not having made the breakthrough into representative cricket — although, in my view, close to doing so — he was modestly remunerated compared with footballers. He was by no means addicted to drugs, but an isolated lapse that had no effect on his sporting performance has resulted in the cancellation of his playing contract with Sussex and a ban from first-class cricket until 1998.

A promising career has thus been damaged and a likeable person deprived of his living. Why is there no place for loyalty, forgiveness and rehabilitation in cricket?

Yours sincerely,
R. T. DRANE,
92 Maripit Lane,
Cotson, Surrey.



Motto at half cock

From Professor Emeritus Herbert H. Huxley

Sir, Lynne Truss's "Latin lesson" (November 8) prompts one who has written both on Latin and on heraldic mottoes to respond.

It would require great effort to devise a more feeble motto than *Audere est facere*. 1. The meaning is about as gripping as "to torture is to inconvenience".

2. A heavy verb (*audere*) is balanced by a light one (*facere*). 3. The infinitive endings (*-ere*), though identical in spelling, sound quite differently.

I suggest that Tottenham Hotspur make their motto as good as their football at its best. Why not go for the simple *Audendo* (Baring), which would supply the thought "Victory is achieved". If the words are not too verbose, one could adopt Virgil's half-line *Audentes fortuna iuvat* (Fortune aids those who dare).

Yours sincerely,
H. H. HUXLEY,
12 Derwent Close, Cambridge.

Suicidal tactics

From Mr Peter Harden

Sir, As Gavin Stewart hints in his article on the 1987 Boat Race (Features, November 12), poor journalism ensured that the fictionalisation of the events surrounding the race had begun well before the crews left the start.

As for the result, he (perhaps understandably, as stroke of the winning crew) glosses over the effects of the extraordinary weather conditions on the day. Oxford won, not through tremendous courage and seamanship, but by (rightly) employing tactics which, on any other day, would have been race suicide: heading for the calm water at the side of the river.

Had Cambridge joined them 30 seconds earlier, they would not have been so waterlogged that no amount of pulling could retrieve their position.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HARDEN,
(Cambridge University Boat Club secretary, 1986-87),
29 Villiers Street, WC2.

Langley's law

From Mr Chris Langley

Sir, The universal astonishment at the outcome of the world heavyweight boxing championship bout last weekend has led me to formulate the following law:

When all the experts are agreed about the likely outcome of a forthcoming event, it would be unwise for the non-expert to fail to rush down to his bookmaker and put his life savings on the opposite result.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS LANGLEY,
54 Goldcroft,
Hemel Hempstead,
Hertfordshire.

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IN OBEYANCE OF 1996

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FOOTBALL

Deal ends threat of strike by players

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

THE threat of a players' strike was finally laid to rest yesterday when the Football League agreed to make an annual payment of £1.35 million, for five years, to the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA). The money will come from the League's £125 million television agreement with BSkyB, which started this season.

The new package was voted through after a 30-minute discussion at a meeting of chairmen and representatives, from all 72 Nationwide League clubs in London. It was immediately welcomed by the PFA, which had balloted its members and received a unanimous mandate to carry out industrial action.

Brendan Basson, the deputy chief executive of the PFA, said: "Obviously, we're delighted this has been settled at last. We're disappointed it had to go this far. I don't think anyone really wanted it to, but we're pleased with all the support we have had from our members in the Football League."

The dispute involved the yearly contribution made by the League to the PFA from its television revenue. Traditionally, it had been designated as 10 per cent, but it was suddenly changed to a "discretionary" amount. The PFA, which received £560,000 from the League last year, protested strongly, with Gordon Taylor, the chief executive, adamant that he would ask the players to strike in an effort to secure a better deal.

Andy Williamson, the League secretary, said: "We're happy this saga has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion. It means that supporters and our commercial partners can be assured that there will be no disruption to the League programme."

"I think we were always moving towards an eleventh-hour agreement, it was always likely to be quite protracted. Everybody hoped we could have avoided all the uncertainty, but, unfortunately, that's the way things tend to develop. It is difficult for any side to claim they have won

the day. It is a compromise and both sides are now happy."

Under the terms of the new deal, the PFA will receive a £750,000-a-year down payment, with a further £600,000 a year earmarked for mutually agreed projects — coaching initiatives, youth schemes and private medical insurance.

The League has also decided to radically restructure its format, with Gordon McKeag, the League president, expected to stand down at the end of the season. The change, if agreed at an emergency general meeting of the clubs next month, will see the scrapping of the existing seven-man board, of which McKeag is chairman, and a nine-man body formed to replace it.

David Sheepshanks, of Ipswich Town, proposed the move, along with Ron Noades, of Crystal Palace, Jonathan Hayward, of Wolverhampton Wanderers, and Ian Stott, of Oldham Athletic. "I'm absolutely delighted," Sheepshanks said. "There were a lot of views expressed as this clearly is a radical change."

"This was started by the first division clubs, but it very quickly captured the imagination of the second and third division clubs as well. There was a very strong feeling that change had to happen."

Under the blueprint devised by Sheepshanks and his colleagues, the new ruling body will commission an independent report that will look at the structure of the League and its board.

If the clubs vote in favour of a new governing body at their emergency meeting, McKeag will relinquish his chairmanship with immediate effect. However, he will not give up his presidency of the League until next summer, after the new board has considered the findings of the report.

Debate on the matter lasted 2½ hours and there was some dissent from the gathering. However, when a vote was called for to arrange the emergency meeting, only one, unnamed, club was opposed to it.



Kilcline, now with Mansfield Town, has mellowed in appearance as well as approach as he nears the end of his colourful playing career

Giant Killer seeks one more Cup victim

Richard Hobson meets a defender with a reputation for tackling some of the game's toughest assignments

Killer Kilcline. The syllables roll off the tongue. Watch Brian Kilcline in action and clearly there is more to the nickname than a handy piece of alliteration. There always was. The Viking looks have been replaced by a ponytail and the bushy beard exchanged for a tidy goatee, but, in the rough, tough world of third division football, Kilcline remains as robust as a barn door.

These days, he is the elder statesman for Mansfield Town, a towering figure in every sense. At 34, he is three years older than Steve Parkin, the manager. Few would say it to his face, evident though it may be, but Kilcline is nearing the winter of his career. The highlight is obvious, enshrined on film and paper, and memories of his most glorious day are sure to be rekindled tomorrow.

Nine years ago, Kilcline joined an exclusive group of players to have lifted the FA Cup when he captained Coventry City to a 3-2 victory against Tottenham Hotspur in one of the most open, attractive finals of the past decade. It was another triumph for the underdog, the sort of result that ensures that the word "romantic" can be

used legitimately in future references.

This weekend, the Cup begins in earnest with the first round and, for Kilcline, it means a tie against Consett, of the Northern League, at Field Mill. "Every year, you try to go as far as you can," Kilcline said. "In league football, you cannot really get away with saying you take each game as it comes because it sounds corny, even though it is true. In the cups, there is no other way. Lose one game, and you're out; but, if you lose to a smaller club, then it is even worse because there is the embarrassment as well."

While the nature of the game is changing, and defenders are expected to be proficient in more than jumping, tackling and clearing their lines, Kilcline's style has remained largely unaltered since he made his debut at Notts County as a strapping teenager, inviting the suggestion then that he must have emerged from the womb 17 years earlier with hair on his legs. He took the advice of



Howard Wilkinson, then the manager at Meadow Lane, and eschewed the chance of a career with Ireland (both his parents are Irish) to collect two England Under-21 caps. The senior call never came.



The crowning moment for Kilcline: Cup Final glory

"I got led astray," Kilcline said, reflecting on the bad company that ultimately forced him out of Nottingham. "I did things that I wanted to do at the time, but were not appropriate in terms of building a career. Perhaps I was not ready for the commitment that needed to be made."

He has learnt from the experience. "The only person I trust in life is my wife," he said. On the field, there are plenty who have placed their faith in Kilcline. He was Kevin Keegan's first signing at Newcastle United and Keegan said recently that it was Kilcline who saved the club from relegation into the old third division.

The player admits that he is best in a "backs-against-the-wall" situation. He has also helped Coventry and Oldham Athletic away from the threat of relegation. "Even as a school kid, I was playing for the lesser teams and getting beaten regularly," he said. "People think I get into difficult situations deliberately because I enjoy getting out of them."

It is certainly true that Kilcline enjoys a challenge. When he bought a remote farmhouse in Holmfirth, Yorkshire, with his wife, Lynn, it lacked any heating and had damp on the walls. Now, it is a warm, meticulously-decorated home. He also owns a narrow boat, which he has learnt to navigate, and often spends the night before a home game on board the vessel which is usually moored on the River Soar.

None of which fits easily with the public perception of Kilcline as a hard man. "They might see me as this big, strong defender, but, except for a while when I was younger and tried to live up to it, I have never encouraged anybody to think anything about me," he said. "That image is not fair, but it is a bit late in my career for people to change their minds." He says that he has been sent off "two or three times, but never for anything nasty."

Tough as nails at work, soft as grease at play, Kilcline is not the first to fit such a description. He values his privacy, but loves his football. Nothing could be better than a scrappy 2-1 win tomorrow, provided that the Consett lead for most of the game.

Scally sees investment reap a rich return at Gillingham

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAUL SCALLY was a man with something to celebrate yesterday. It was the morning after the night that Gillingham had achieved the greatest result in their 103-year history — a victory over Coventry City, of the FA Carling Premiership, that put them into the fourth round of the Coca-Cola Cup. What is more, it came 16 months after Scally, the chairman, had rescued the Nationwide League second division club from collapse.

Gillingham were on the verge of folding with the club in receivership and with debts of £1 million before Scally, who owns a group of office equipment companies and is a Millwall supporter, bought the club for around £2 million. Since then, Gillingham have not looked back, winning promotion from the third division in May and their night of cup glory at Highfield Road on Wednesday.

"I've been a Millwall supporter for 28 years and had no previous involvement with Gillingham until the summer before last," Scally said, "but I saw on the television that the club was in receivership. I had a look at the club and liked what I saw — the crowd and the potential of the place — and I became hooked."

"I paid over £1.5 million, but I'd not got pots of money to throw in. However, if I could make it pay off the field, I'd make sure the manager didn't have to sell his players for us to break even, then I felt we had half a chance, and that's what happened."

Tony Pulis, the Gillingham manager, said: "Occasions like Wednesday make everything worthwhile. The club has had some days to remember over the past 15 months and clinching promotion at Fulham was very special, but in my wildest dreams I never expected to go to Coventry to get a result. I felt we deserved it over the two games and, having come from 2-0 down, I think we could have finished the job off at our place if we had been given another ten minutes."

"What will it mean financially? I haven't really thought about that so far. That is obviously a big factor, but the game is very important to me and the result was the most important thing. Now, let's look forward to Ipswich in the next round."

Ian Crook, the Norwich City midfielder, was fined £250 by the Football Association yesterday after admitting signing for two clubs at the same time.

In June, Crook was released by Norwich and agreed to join Ipswich Town, their East Anglian neighbours. Norwich, though, reapointed Mike Walker as manager and he persuaded Crook to return to Carrow Road. Crook, however, signed registration forms with Norwich, before the contract that he had agreed with Ipswich was declared invalid and he was charged by the FA.

Andorra's debut in international football ended in a 6-1 defeat by Estonia yesterday. Pol marked his name in the history books of the small principality in the Pyrenees by becoming his country's first goalscorer when he equalised after 61 minutes, but Estonia soon regained the lead and, as Andorra ran out of steam, they conceded four more goals in the final stages. Arberer scored four for Estonia.

Powling plays on nerves of Brighton's troubled travellers



Powling ambition

When a team lies rock bottom of the third division with its supporters under siege, the solitary consolation is that fate has dealt all its bad cards. Tomorrow afternoon, at a rustic ground in Suffolk, may prove that the joker has yet to be played on Brighton.

The market town of Sudbury has its attractions. There is a river, some noble old buildings and verdant countryside, but, when the beleaguered players of Brighton bump across the potholed entrance to the Priory Stadium, they can be pardoned for being blind to all this. The FA Cup has simply invited them further into purgatory.

It is just about the best draw we could have got," Richie Powling, the manager

of Sudbury Town, confirmed. "We all want to play a League club at home and, because it's Brighton and they are having a rough time, there is just a slight chance we could win."

The mood is infectious. The shop windows of Sudbury have begun to fill with roses and pictures of the town team, for this is their cup final. Out on the pitch, the groundsman stepped down from his tractor, grinned around at the tiny, garishly red stand and the Dickensian floodlights and said: "You wouldn't think we were going to beat Brighton on this, would you?"

Powling's optimism, however, is solidly based, for he is no backwoods dreamer. Early in the 1970s, he made his Arsenal debut, aged 17, and in the next four seasons he played 55 games. "Liam Brady

Alan Lee on how the Sudbury manager is plotting to ambush ailing opposition

and I shared the same position," Powling said. "I always knew he would be a lot better than me."

The fame that attended Brady turned its back on his stockier friend. A knee injury ended Powling's League career at 21, although, for the next four years, he tried to defy the evidence. He spent a decade as a travelling salesman, but now, at 40, he is enjoying the game again.

After a spell as assistant to Barry Fry at Barnet, Powling managed Grays Athletic,

Tipree United and Harwich and Parkesdon. Then, he took his young family from their native Barking and harnessed his ambition to Sudbury. "The aim is to relocate to a new ground out of town and that is my main incentive," he said.

The Priory Stadium has been Sudbury's home since 1952, but David Webb, the club secretary, remembers watching the team play at their previous base, now the town's cricket ground. "I was born in Sudbury and I've been watching the club for 50 years now," Webb said. "I never thought we would come this far — Wembley for the Vase final in 1989 and now the first round of the FA Cup for the first time."

It is not, perhaps, the cosy, small-town team that Webb remembers of old. Powling,

though restricted by a budget that forces him to sell two players a year if the club is to survive, has created a team of his own. The captain is Nicky Smith, once of Colchester United but now working as a postman while he trains for the police force. Recently, Powling has added Tony English, formerly the Colchester captain but, like himself, forced out of League football by a suspect knee.

These East Anglian luminaries apart, Brighton will be confronted by the usual non-league mix, including a swimming-pool attendant and a double glazing salesman.

Though acknowledging that Sudbury's facilities, finances and following are as thin as any in the Doc Martens League, Powling claimed that their coaching, scouting and

physiotherapy are a match for any. There is character within the team, too.

Last week, protecting a 2-1 first-leg advantage in a cup-tie at Fisher Athletic, they were 5-0 down before half-time yet recovered to score four and go through on away goals. Then, on Saturday, they took an away point from Gresley Rovers, the unbeaten leaders.

Powling speaks with realism. "Nine times out of ten, Brighton will beat us comfortably," he said, "but they won't want to come here and they will find a carnival atmosphere that might just disturb them. Our normal gate is 400 and there will be ten times that many here on Saturday." With that, he dashed off to the printers to collect more tickets. The work of a non-league manager is never done.

White and Parrott fail German test

JOHN PARROTT and Jimmy White, both former winners of the United Kingdom championship, each suffered setbacks on the eve of the 1996 event when there were surprisingly defeated in the final qualifying round of the German Open at Preston Guild Hall yesterday (Phil Yates writes).

Parrott, a realistic contender for the UK title, was beaten 5-3 by David Gray, a rookie professional, while White lost 5-1 to Mark Davis, the world No 55.

After opening match defeats in the Asian Classic, Regal Scottish Masters and Grand Prix, White is devoid of confi-

dence. "It is a very frustrating experience," White said. "When things are going well and you've strung a few wins together, you're in a mould. I am out of that at the moment and I just can't seem to get involved out there."

Unlike White, Parrott, a semi-finalist at the Regal Masters and Grand Prix, has enjoyed an encouraging start to the new campaign. As such, his unusually ineffective display against Gray, 17, came as a shock to his system.

Gray, who was forced to negotiate nine qualifying rounds in order to ensure his place in the final stages of the tournament

at the British Army camp in Osnabrück, next month, overcame an understandable degree of nervousness to register the best win of his fledgling career.

"David is a good little player, I played awfully and a combination of the two all led to this result; I've got absolutely no excuses," Parrott said.

Mark Williams, who won the Grand Prix, highlighted a 5-2 victory over Nick Price with a 140 total clearance, and, in so doing, further endorsed his credentials as a value bet for the £70,000 first prize on offer at the UK championship, which gets under way this afternoon.

SAILING: ARIEL CREW CELEBRATE WITH HEARTY BREAKFAST ASHORE

Turner takes honours with day to spare

ARIEL, skippered by Ras Turner, took the honours to win the first leg of Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's Clipper '96 round-the-world race, when she crossed the finishing line off Fort Lauderdale early yesterday, enabling her crew to enjoy a hearty breakfast ashore (Edward Gorman writes).

Turner and his paying volunteers had taken 21 days and 21 minutes to complete the second half of the leg from Madeira, a distance of 3,700 nautical miles, and he looked to have beaten the nearest of his rivals by at least 24 hours. The next yacht to arrive, early this morning, is expected

to be *Chrysolite*, skippered by Colin de Mowbray, followed by *Mermerus*, under Jim Thom.

Turner, a former career naval officer and Whitbread veteran from Saltash, Cornwall, was relieved to have held on to his lead after contending with torn spinnakers for much of the leg. "The light winds were very changeable in the middle and it became like a demolition derby at one stage with spinnakers tearing and a broken halyard pushing one spinnaker into the sea," he said. "Luckily, we were able to effect the necessary repairs and we are thrilled to be on dry land again."

In the Vendée Globe single-handed round-the-world race, Pete Goss, whose first ten days have been hampered by the failure of his radio, yesterday managed to get it going again. He is now able to receive vital weather faxes for the first time since the start. Goss, on *Aqua Quorum*, was lying in tenth place with Catherine Chabaud, of France, on *Whirlpool-Europe 2*, back ahead of him in ninth place and making better speed in light trade wind conditions. The race leader is still Yves Parlier, on *Aquitaine Innovations*, who is 30 miles ahead of Isabelle Autissier, on *PRB*.

AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN

GRICKLEWOOD

FILMS LOSE THEIR EDGE UNLESS YOU WATCH THEM ON A SAMSUNG WIDESCREEN

Former stand-off half can help inspire Wales to recapture their former glories

Captain Davies to get the dragon breathing fire

A first glance, the inclusion of Jonathan Davies in the Wales squad to play Australia on December 1 might appear to be a selection which ignores the long-term development of the team for the possible benefits of short-term gains. But what, may I ask, is so wrong with that?

Having grown accustomed since the first World Cup to the four-year cycle, national team selection seems to be geared, almost obsessively, towards that objective. It would be misguided, however, to consider every other match simply as a preparation for that main event.

With Davies, 34, there is only the faintest of possibilities that he will, by 1999, be in sufficiently sprightly form to be included for that tournament. Even he, with his unbounded enthusiasm for rugby, will readily admit that the chances are that he will have lost his edge by the time the World Cup arrives in Cardiff almost three years hence. It is a long way off. But that such a distant prospect should only belong to those with youth on their side is hardly the basis for sound selection. The next month's fixture.

Who knows what may happen in the meantime? Loss of form, injury and any other sporting catastrophe can soon bring the best-laid plans to naught. Players come and go. Selections inevitably have to look to the future, but not too far. The next game, as they say, is always the hardest.

Another of those distant room boys' motto says that a team is only as good as its last game. Wales did beat Ireland

GERALD DAVIES



In their only victory of last season's championship, but there has been little comfort for them since then.

Two heavy defeats against Australia during the summer were followed by failure more recently against France and a less than convincing victory over Italy. The sooner this disappointing series of results comes to an end the better and,

'He can bring a match to life and turn it in his team's favour'

for the moment, any thoughts of the World Cup should be put on hold.

A squad must be built brick by brick, step by steady step, and the recall of Davies may help that rehabilitation. He is playing well. In his second season since returning from rugby league, he has had a consistent run in the Cardiff team at stand-off half. Last season, Cardiff chose him at full back and at centre and, because of the presence of Adrian Davies, now with Richmond, Jonathan Davies

was only intermittently chosen in the position in which he made such a luminous name for himself.

It was clear that he did not feel at home in the other positions and his club began this season by losing three consecutive matches. That Cardiff have recaptured their reputation since then is no small part due to the magisterial influence of Davies.

No one in his position knows the nuances of the game better than he does. He is a great judge of what the moment requires, of the astute tactical nudge which can bring the match to life and turn it in his team's favour.

He is an astute reader of the game. No one needs to tell him which lines of the plot to follow. He may no longer have the same fleetness of foot as of yore, he may not entirely be committed to the philosophy of "tackle counts", although he never shirks his responsibility in this regard. No one who has played rugby league could.

His job, he is likely to admit, is to stay on his feet and to attempt to direct the game's course — and not to be caught at the bottom of a ruck. His role, as Carwyn James once wrote memorably of Barry John, is not only to snuff the wind but to create it.

But, while all these playing factors in themselves are important, there is, in the present mood of the Wales team, another quality which Davies can impart to his colleagues and which he has in abundance: confidence. His presence alone could prove a crucial asset against Australia.

Having travelled the world and played against the mightiest teams, he has long out-



Cardiff are benefiting from the magisterial influence of Davies at stand-off half

grown the sense of awe that pervades younger, less experienced players as they contemplate facing such reputations. Davies is not overwhelmed by the opposing company.

There are too many players in the Wales squad who have lived for too long in the shadow of defeat and grown too comfortable with failure. Davies, however, is an ebull-

ent man. His effervescent play reflects the optimism of his personality, and this needs to rub off on others. They, too, need to strut as he does.

No outsider knows exactly what mood lies in the dressing-room but, for sure, with Davies in the squad, the spirit will never be diffident nor haunted by disturbing thoughts of previous damage.

As the selectors have taken what may still be thought a bold step to include him in the squad, and will soon have to consider his place in the team, they may, at the same time, consider whether he should in fact lead the side. For Davies could prove a boon to the management: he is his own man and he thrives on responsibility.

Leading clubs boycott divisional games

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE representative programme in England, which last week threatened some coherence, returned to disarray yesterday when the leading clubs withdrew their players from selection for divisional matches. Their action is a consequence of the breakdown of talks on Wednesday between the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (EPRUC) and the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

"There is no point in us having the ammunition — the players — and not using it," Peter Wheeler, the Leicester chief executive, said. "None of

us want to leave the union and, at one stage on Wednesday, I thought we had a solution to the dispute. I would not condemn any club who chose to sign the RFU agreement, because they need the money, but I don't see that as the way to a lasting settlement."

The one club, Nottingham, who had signed with the RFU, are now considering rescinding that agreement.

No England player has yet signed an RFU contract and Derek Morgan, the chairman of the RFU national playing committee, said: "I hope that some of the players' contracts have a let-out clause that allows them to play in the divisional matches. These

games against strong touring opposition are specifically designed as a stepping-stone into the England team."

The Argentinean national side arrive on Monday and are scheduled to play London at Twickenham on Wednesday, but the London squad contains only players from EPRUC members. "It is shameful," Tony Jordan, the chairman of the London selectors, said. "We have a full-back plan which involves using players from Rosslyn Park and Havant (both third-division clubs), but my worry is that players from that level could be exposed to danger in the scrums against such powerful scrummagers."

Meanwhile, Bath have made eight changes from the XV beaten at Northampton last week for the Heineken Cup quarter-final in Cardiff tomorrow. Jonathan Callard, Andy Robinson and John Mallett are among the rejects and are joined among the replacements by Henry Paul, the rugby league international.

Robbie, Paul's younger brother, has not recovered from an ankle injury, so Will Carling will partner Gary Connolly for Harlequins against Leicester. The fixture congestion this season has forced Leicester to move their traditional fixture with the Barbarians from December 27 to February 25.

IN BRIEF

Duff offers £100,000 for Schwer contest

MICKEY DUFF, the London boxing promoter, is offering a record £100,000 to the winner of the British lightweight championship bout, between Michael Ayers and Colin Dunne, on November 20, to meet Billy Schwer.

Duff, who manages Dunne and Schwer, said yesterday that the bout would be staged at a leading venue in London in February. "It will be a tremendous fight and I would not be able to make it without paying a record purse for the division," Duff said. The bout between Ayers and Dunne, at the Wembley Conference Centre, is almost sold out.

Baddeley boost

Badminton: James Anderson and Ian Pearson, both 22, gave Steve Baddeley, the new England manager, a successful start, completing a 3-2 victory in the first of six matches in a series against China with an impressive performance at Exeter in the deciding men's doubles.

The promising young partnership delivered a 15-5, 15-13 win over Zhang Jun and Min Zhenyu to raise hopes that there might be a repeat of the achievement last year, when England scored a first victory in a series against the Chinese.

Leeds rejected

Rugby league: Iestyn Harris, 20, the Great Britain and Wales stand-off half, has turned down the chance to move to Leeds, which leaves the way clear for St Helens to agree a possible world record deal with Warrington for the player, who is on the transfer list at £1.35 million. "I am flattered by Leeds's approach, but I will not be going there because I have set my heart on joining St Helens," Harris said.

Britain excel

Karate: Great Britain won five gold medals at the world championships in Sun City, finishing ahead of 89 countries, including France and Japan. The team excelled in taking four individual gold medals and a women's team also won gold. The British team coach was Ticky Donovan, a previous world title-winner.

Welch drops title

Boxing: Scott Welch, 28, has given up his British heavyweight title after becoming the No 1 contender for the World Boxing Organisation crown. Welch had been ordered by the British Boxing Board of Control to defend his title against Jolly Francis by the new year.

ICE SKATING

Absence of pairs gives grounds for concern

By JOHN HENNESSY

IF THERE is one discipline in British figure skating that causes greater concern than any other, it is the pairs event. The combined entry for the junior and senior domestic championships in Guildford this week was three, saved from a walkover in one event or the other by one couple, Marina Poluliaschenko and Andrew Seabrook, making an appearance in both competitions.

But for the loosening of the qualification rules in the past couple of years, there would have been two walkovers. Poluliaschenko, a vivacious 15-year-old Ukrainian, arrived in this country only two years ago, and her progress as a skater has been as impressive as her rapidly-improved command of English. Starting from scratch, she speaks now with hardly a flaw.

She is, then, a godsend at a time when pairs skating in Great Britain is light years away from the era of John and Jennifer Nicks, the winners of the world championship in 1953; and Alan Seabrook and Lesley Pearce, her teachers at Swindon, had a ready-made partner in Alan's son, the British junior solo champion last year.

The problem of sparse entry has been exacerbated this year by stricter conditions imposed by the National Ice Skating Association: silver-medal standard instead of bronze for juniors, gold-medal instead of silver for seniors. The principle behind the change is to strengthen the standard. It may well be justified in the long-term, but the immediate effect is to accept threadbare competition.

At least Poluliaschenko and Seabrook, 18, looked the part and may well provide a challenge to Lesley Rogers and Michael Aldred, the holders of the senior title, later in the week.

Tristan Cousins, 14, the nephew of Robin, the British Olympic champion of 1990, was fourth in the men's junior event yesterday. He skated well, though with a conspicuous absence of triple jumps. As it was, he fell on his second double axel and touched down on a double toe-loop.

The event was won by Alan Street, a stylish Blackburn skater, of 16, who was given pride of place by all seven judges. Howard Davies, 15, from Belfast, was even more stylish, but lacked Street's technical content, offering only one clear triple jump compared with Street's three, although one of which, a toe-loop, was imperfectly landed. Davies finished runner-up for the second successive time and David Walsingham, of Chelmsford, third.

New Zealand secure place in classic final

NEW Zealand remain on course to retain their world rugby classic title after a thrilling semi-final victory over South Africa at Newlands Sports Club, Beyersburg (Adrian Drummond writes).

The meeting between the two teams of former internationals on Wednesday night produced fast, open rugby in which New Zealand's fast-paced South Africa by five tries to three, winning 25-13.

Dean O'Sullivan scored first for South Africa, after a scything run through the mid-field by Helgard Muller, but Alan Crowley, the New Zealand scrum half, countered a

minute later with an opportunistic break from a ruck to score under the posts.

Thrust and counter thrust followed. Terry Wright and Bernie McCall scoring for New Zealand and Danie Gerber crossing in the corner for South Africa. Kulu Ferreira brought South Africa level after half-time, but New Zealand's ability to keep the ball in play and to recycle it had South Africa under pressure in the last quarter and resulted in two tries.

New Zealand will play the winners of the match last night between the Celtic Barbarians and Canada.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

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NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Plymouth 0 Bolton Wanderers 1; Manchester City 2 Oxford United 2; West Bromwich Albion 1.

BELL'S SPORTS LEAGUE: First division: St Johnstone 3 East Fife 0.

FA LEAGUE TROPHY: Second qualifying round replays: Birmingham 2 Ayr United 1.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: Forest Green 3 Weston-super-Mare 1.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bristol City 2 Swindon 1; Northampton 1; Southampton 0; Portsmouth 0; Reading 0.

PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Stockport 0 Port Vale 3; Macclesfield 1; Doncaster 0; Rotherham 0; Southend 0; Walsley 0; Walsley 0; Walsley 0.

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No net gains from superhighway robbery

If you search for news of Alan Shearer on the Internet, you may be surprised by the result. By latest information superhighway reports, Shearer plays for Blackburn Rovers and fans are concerned that he has not scored for England for more than a year. Feels like time travel? It certainly does. In another entry, a Shearer groin injury is mentioned, which seems momentarily more up-to-date — but only until you notice that it is dated March 25.

This is curious. It feels like a conspiracy to remove the past six months. Even downloading a picture of Shearer from a heading entitled "Paintings and Portraits" proves to be a disappointment in pixel form because, not only is the sweetheart wearing pale blue and white, but the words "Football Heroes '95" are noticeable beneath.

Having spent three fruitless evenings on the Internet this week, searching for red-hot "footy stuff", I can report that my discoveries were lukewarm at best — my personal favourites being a "When Saturday Comes" newsgroup for people who have "scored" at football matches (you don't want to know), and a handy "rant" page for people who have strong but banal opinions such as "Wolverhampton are the most boring team in the first division. If not

the world." (Luckily, that one was there, so I didn't have to add it.) Nobody warned me about the dreary effect of internationalism on the life of a keen football supporter always ready at the front door with jacket zipped up, moonboots on, gloves threaded down her sleeves, and a sandwich and bus pass pocketed in a scruffy plastic carrier bag. On Saturday, with no match to attend, I stood by the front door and whined miserably.

'I stood by the door, whining miserably'

half of Georgia v England on the television.

So, it was a fragmented sort of week, football-wise. Keeping cheerful, however. I enjoyed musing on what a good dramatic comedy could be made out of Emerson's plucky runner, and wondering whether the final straw for this excellent twinkled-toed footballer was the booing during the recent Newcastle United v Middlesbrough match. The idea of Emerson doing a bunk is irresistibly funny, somehow. Escape from Middlesbrough? Exotic superstar footballer returns from match to find lovely Brazilian wife dressed entirely

LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

in Damart thermals with hot-water bottle strapped to each foot "Aieee!" he exclaims, and boards next plane back to Rio.

Focusing on essentials, I pass over the tender feelings of Bryan Robson and enjoy a hearty chuckle at the expense of the country's many fantasy football managers who selected Emerson and are now anxiously ringing the airports. Ha, ha, ha! How does it feel to watch your team sink in the middle with a sound of expelled air?

Such speculation was not enough to sustain the eager woman with the sandwich, though. So, call me pathetic,

if you will, but I resorted to memories of Euro 96. By chance, in the evenings this week, *Soho Stories* on BBC2 focused on that exciting three weeks in June — though as seen from the viewpoint of two Soho community bobbies in shirtsleeves, with the tension building nightly to the Trafalgar Square riot on the night of the defeat by Germany. It was not the way I remembered Euro 96 personally, but at least it was something, and I understood the timetable of events, which was nice.

So, on Monday night's programme, the Swiss arrived, and all was calm. The policemen made small talk with traders and bar owners along the lines of "It might go quietly; it might go mental." Soho residents ignored the rumblings of the gathering storm. By Tuesday, however, Scots were bending forward and flipping their kilt over their backs rather unpleasantly, while English fans began to run wild and police protected pubs full of nice orange Dutch people singing funny words to the tune of *Auld Lang Syne*.

When the fateful Wednesday arrived, though, the producer came up with an inspiration, choosing to intercut the national drama unfolding in the streets with a backstage view of a simultaneous *Les Mis*

performance — the uniting theme being the barricades, of course, as well as miserableness.

It turned out to be a good idea, not least for the memorable image of men in theatrically-soiled linen rushing to their dressing-rooms between songs to find out the score. An apathetic dresser made the big mistake of joshing about this important matter. "It's 3-1," he said, but then hastily apologised. In the star's dressing-room, a blood-stained French urchin-child (possibly dead) piped up with the terrible truth. "England won't want to go to penalties," he explained to the grown-ups. "Germany have never lost on penalties."

As I said, it was something. It kept me going and proves that I do not mind living six months adrift if I choose. In the meantime, I do think that the Internet might try a bit harder. On one search for Shearer, I got "Jeff's Flyishing Page", which is solely concerned with saltwater angling in North Carolina. In the end, the highest point of interest was a fake bulletin on the Manchester City home page. "A burglary was recently committed at Man City's ground," it ran. "The entire contents of the trophy room were stolen. Police are looking for a man with a blue carpet."

'England won't want to go to penalties'

After disappointing results in the Amsterdam and Brussels Volvo World Cup qualifiers, British riders will attempt to redress the balance at the Millstreet International Show that begins here today. The qualifier, the sixth of the season, takes place tomorrow night and has attracted 36 riders from 15 countries. Twelve Britons are competing, including the Olympic riders, Nick Skelton, John and Michael Whitaker.

None has a sharper resolve than Michael Whitaker. After his worst year in the sport, Whitaker, once No.1, has dropped to No.12 in the world rankings. Unless he regains his position in the top ten by the end of the year, he will not have automatic entry to the post-Christmas World Cup shows. Midnight Madness and Two Step, his top horses, are resting, but he has an able substitute this weekend in Ashley, his 1995 Foxhunter winner, on which he was fifth in the Danish qualifier in Aarhus last month.

Despite an impressive line-up of overseas riders — that includes Jo Lansink, the 1994 World Cup winner, and Piet Raymakers, the winner in Oslo and Helsinki last month, both from Holland — Whitaker may find that one of the main threats comes from his wife, Veronique, in Brussels last week, the Belgian-born Mrs Whitaker was the highest placed Briton, finishing fourth on Eldorado in the biggest flourish of the season so far.

Skelton has no such concerns with Dollar Girl, his 1995 World Cup winner, who won the Millstreet qualifier last year after a devastating performance against the clock. Although the horse disappointed in Brussels last week, Skelton, the winner of ten qualifiers in his career, is confident that the 16-year-old mare is now "tuned up" for the event tomorrow night.

The powerful British contingent also includes William Funnell and Di Lampard, who are well capable of giving Great Britain a first win in a World Cup qualifier this season. Funnell is riding Cornet, on which he was second at Aarhus. Lampard, the highest placed Briton in the Western European League, rides the consistent nine-year-old, Abbeville Dream.

John Whitaker, who has qualified for every final since the event began in 1979, is resting Welham, his top horse, and relying on the versatile Gammon to extend

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Good kind of dark deed

The Proud Walker, Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

Coming from someone else, William Walker's self-assuring reflection that "the Church's one foundation is me" would have sounded ridiculous. Actually, it was true. Early this century, Winchester Cathedral was found to be sinking into the marsh on which it was built. Engineers came up with a plan: dig deep down into the adjoining graveyard, pack the flooded pits with bags of cement, pump out the water, and keep fingers crossed. Without the back-breaking persistence of a helmeted digger, Walker, working for six years in inky blackness ("black as Old Nick's breeches"), the six years in inky blackness ("black as Old Nick's breeches"), the plan would have been unworkable. In Keith Davill's dramatised feature, Walker the do-or-die diver, is played by John Hartley.

Stravinsky in Three Movements, Radio 4, 9.30pm.

Enthusiasm of the gushing variety can become tiresome. That there is no fear of this happening in tonight's *Kaleidoscope Feature*, discerningly assembled by Erika Wright. She brings together three contemporary composers, all indebted to Stravinsky in some way or other, and gets them to pick a particular favourite from his huge output, and explain why they chose it. They are Steve Martland, whose analysis of the *Symphony of Psalms* makes me want to hear it again without further delay; the American composer, John Adams, who chooses *Parnassus*, and the Dutch composer, Louis Andriessen, whose choice is the ballet music for *Agon*.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

6.30am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo, 12.00 The Breakfast Show, 1.30pm Ken Bruce, 2.00 The Big Breakfast, 3.00pm The Big Breakfast, 4.00pm The Big Breakfast, 5.00pm The Big Breakfast, 6.00pm The Big Breakfast, 7.00pm The Big Breakfast, 8.00pm The Big Breakfast, 9.00pm The Big Breakfast, 10.00pm The Big Breakfast, 11.00pm The Big Breakfast, 12.00am The Big Breakfast.

RADIO 2

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake up to Win, 8.30am Ken Bruce, 11.30am Jimmy Young, 1.30pm John Peel, 3.00pm Ed Sheeran, 5.00pm Helen Stanger, 7.00pm Today's Day, 7.30pm Friday Night, 8.00pm Music Night, 9.00pm The Hypocrite, 10.00pm The Hypocrite, 11.00pm The Hypocrite, 12.00am The Hypocrite.

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports, incl at 6.45 Wake Up to Money, 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.45, 7.25pm preview 6.35 The Magazine, with Diana Madill, 12.00 Midday with Max, incl at 12.35pm Moneycheck, 2.00pm Puccini on Five, 4.00pm Newsnight, incl at 4.45 Entertainment News, 7.00pm News Extra, with David McNeil, and Sports Bulletin, 7.30pm Parkers on Sport, 8.30pm Friday Sport, Second-half commentary of Transmire Rovers v Oldham Athletic, 10.05pm Paper Talk, 11.00pm Night Extra, 12.05am After Hours, 2.05pm All Night.

TALK RADIO

6.00am Early Breakfast, 7.00pm Paul Rinz, 8.00pm Scott Chadwick, 12.00pm Kevin Rafter, 2.00pm Tommy Boyd, 4.00pm Dineen, with Peter Deely, 7.00pm Muz Dee's Sportszone, 10.00pm James White, 1.00pm Ian Collins.

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, includes Telemann (Trio in E flat); Bax (Winter Legends); Kodaly (Missa Pictura), 9.00am Morning Collection, with Peter Hobbday, includes Handel (Concerto Grosso in D, Op 3 No 8); Britten (Missa Solenne No 3 in D minor, Op 108), 10.00am Musical Encounters, includes Handel (Let the Bright Seraphim), Arst of the Week: Wynton Marsalis, Bloch (Concerto Grosso No 1); the interval, John Starnes presents a poll of the week's jazz, 12.00pm Composers of the Week: Chostakovich and Spontini, Graham Funnell introduces highlights of Spontini's last opera for Paris, *Olympie*. It contains many of the set pieces with mixed soloists, chorus and orchestra that were his specialty.

1.00pm News, Bristol Luncheon Concert, featuring the chamber music of Joseph Haydn with Ronald Brautigam, piano. Haydn (Sonata in E minor), Graner (Sonata in D, Op 25 No 2); Haydn (Sonata in G minor); Debussy (Homage to Haydn); Haydn (Sonata in C), 2.00pm Preconceptions, American conductor Andrew Litton reveals his penchant for jazz.

2.15pm Music Restaurant (1), 3.00pm Music Restaurant (2), 4.00pm Music Restaurant (3), 5.00pm Music Restaurant (4), 6.00pm Music Restaurant (5), 7.00pm Music Restaurant (6), 8.00pm Music Restaurant (7), 9.00pm Music Restaurant (8), 10.00pm Music Restaurant (9), 11.00pm Music Restaurant (10), 12.00am Music Restaurant (11).

12.00pm Composer of the Week: Percy Grainger. In the final programme, Fenelope Thwaites and Andrew Lyke explore the composer's involvement in early music (1), 1.00pm Through the Night.

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News, 6.10am Farming Today, 6.25am Prayer, 6.30am Today, 6.45am Yesterday in Parliament, 8.55am Weather, 9.00am News, 9.05am Desert Island Discs, with the writer, traveller and philosopher Sir Laurence van der Post, introduced by Sue Lawley (1), 9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dunkley, 10.00am News, Proud Walker (FM), See Choice, 10.10am An Act of Worship (LW), 10.15am On This Day (LW), 10.30am Women's Hour, with Gail.

11.30am The Natural History Programme, 12.00pm News, You and Yours, Mark Whitaker presents reports on consumer and social affairs, 12.25pm The Food Programme, Weather, 1.00pm The World at One, 1.40pm The Archers, 1.55pm Shipping, 2.00pm News, 2.05pm The World at One, 2.10pm News, 2.15pm The World at One, 2.20pm News, 2.25pm The World at One, 2.30pm News, 2.35pm The World at One, 2.40pm News, 2.45pm The World at One, 2.50pm News, 2.55pm The World at One, 3.00pm News, 3.05pm The World at One, 3.10pm News, 3.15pm The World at One, 3.20pm News, 3.25pm The World at One, 3.30pm News, 3.35pm The World at One, 3.40pm News, 3.45pm The World at One, 3.50pm News, 3.55pm The World at One, 4.00pm News, 4.05pm The World at One, 4.10pm News, 4.15pm The World at One, 4.20pm News, 4.25pm The World at One, 4.30pm News, 4.35pm The World at One, 4.40pm News, 4.45pm The World at One, 4.50pm News, 4.55pm The World at One, 5.00pm News, 5.05pm The World at One, 5.10pm News, 5.15pm The World at One, 5.20pm 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A very bad case of second series syndrome

Actors often complain that the paying public fail to recognise the essential difference that exists between the characters they portray on screen and themselves. All I can say after last night's episode one of *Crocodile Shoes* (BBC1) is that we, the paying public, have a point.

Does anybody know where Jimmy Nail, actor and country music singer, begins and where Jed Shepperd, his fictional alter ego, ends? More importantly, does anybody care?

Somebody must. I suppose, for there to be a new series. New series means a new theme tune, the chorus of which has been helpfully woven into the soundtrack, presumably making it easier to walk into a record shop and ask "have you got the one that goes dee-dee-dee, dee-dee-dum...". There's a new album out too, you see.

Series two began with Shepperd as an established star, which

unfortunately means that parody was rarely more than a plectrum plucked away. He rents mansions in the West Country, is stalked constantly by the paparazzi and wears sunglasses indoors. Last night we met him as he was wrestling with something called second album syndrome ("this one will show whether I've got the legs") and with a flame-haired personal assistant whose Euro-pudding accent was so bizarre that it threatened the authenticity of Nail's genuine Geordie twang. He couldn't have been faking it all these years — could he?

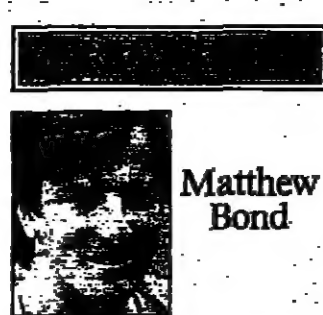
Nail himself gave a performance so low key that you wonder whether the director forgot to shout "action". This was acting from the school of ultra-naturalism. What this tresomely laid-back series requires, however, is a good kick up the arse.

In terms of plot last night, his manager was murdered, he met a

nice girl from Tynemouth and somebody hit him over the head. In terms of dialogue, we had such gems as "I mean, really, he's not... Best of all we had a musical interlude — a chance for Nail to look moodily down the Tynes and sign a few autographs (his signature or Shepperd's, I wonder?) while we endured another track from the album.

It finished with the same inexplicably corrupt policeman planting two polythene bags of illegal white stuff at the rented mansion. Unfortunately, an identical incident had provided the comic basis for *The Thin Blue Line* just an hour earlier. But more of that anon.

First we must consider *The Works: The Actor's Cut* (BBC2), a programme so annoying that it knocked Brian Blessed and Mount Everest off the top of my personal hate parade. All



Matthew Bond

his working life Richard E. Grant has been selling his key little film diaries to newspapers and all my life I've been failing to avoid them. Not having the foresight to move to a region where *The Works* was not being shown, I found last night was no different. Here we went again.

Now, pay attention because this is where it gets complicated. This was the video diary of the promo-

otional tour to plug two films and a book, the latter being a compilation of all those previous diaries that plugged all those previous films — and, of course, their author and star, Grant.

In between these bouts of self-promotion, Grant's camcorder just happened — as they do — to come across all sorts of very famous people, including Trevor Nunn, whose campaign to rid the profession of the word "lunatic" was rendered a bloody, witching mess by this ravel-gazing nonsense.

If ever we were in doubt that here was the most delicate of egos (Grant confessed he was haunted by a review that described his acting as "more than adequate"), the diary proper was followed by no fewer than four postscripts, informing us — and reassuring him — that he was in work and a great success. "Do you think I'm less paranoid or more paranoid than when you first met me?" he

simpered at Winona Ryder as they cavorted in Steve Martin's swimming pool. Hm, tough call.

Ben Elton's ego needed to be in pretty robust shape for the first series of *The Thin Blue Line* (BBC1) when, initially, at least, I appeared to be the only critic in captivity who liked it. I still like it... but I do worry about it. Elton's problem is that having written scripts that were too rude for a pre-watershed slot, does he have the dramatic wherewithal to justify a post-watershed grown-up slot? Answer yes... but probably only if you're in the right mood.

Rowan Atkinson's *Inspector*

pragmatist — anything for a laugh. The supporting cast at Garsford, Nick, are as enjoyably silly as ever, with David Haig outstanding as DI Grim. I just hope enough people are in the right mood.

Finally, the opitely surmised Hugh Fearnley-Whittinghall returned to Channel 4 with that television rarity, a genuinely different comedy programme, *TV Dinners*. F.W., as he is known by those who value their writing space, plays a modest part in proceedings, content to let gifted amateurs have their 11 minutes of fame as they go to no end of trouble preparing extraordinary meals. Last night's host with the most was Gordon Perrier, whose hospitality and attention to detail knew no bounds. Only his guests, squabbling over who had which individually prepared pudding, let him down. No more pears in gold-leaf for them.

6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (45/57)

7.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (45/57)
7.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (45/57)

9.20am STYLE CHALLENGE (41/18738)

9.45am KILROY (45/18738)

10.30am CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (45/18738)

11.00am NEWS (45/18738) and weather (27/53825)

11.05am THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (45/18738)

11.45am SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (45/18738)

12.00am NEWS (45/18738) and weather (40/14825)

12.05pm ALLAS SMITH AND JONES (45/18738)

12.55pm THE WEATHER SHOW (45/18738)

1.00pm NEWS (45/18738) and weather (73/115)

1.30pm REGIONAL NEWS (45/18738)

1.40pm NEIGHBOURS (45/18738)

2.00pm CALL MY BLUFF (45/18738)

2.30pm SEABROOK'S GARDENING WEEK (45/18738)

3.30pm THE ANIMALS OF FARTHING WOOD (45/18738)

4.30pm THE ADVENTURES OF JIMMY QUEST (45/18738)

5.00pm GRANGE HILL (45/18738)

5.00pm NEWSROUND (45/18738)

5.10pm BLUE PETER (45/18738)

5.30pm NEWS (45/18738) and weather (73/115)

6.00pm REGIONAL NEWS (45/18738)

7.00pm MUPPETS TONIGHT! Heather Loddar is the guest in the last of the present series (45/18738)

7.25pm TOP OF THE POPS (45/18738)

8.00pm THIS IS YOUR LIFE presented by Michael Aspel (45/18738)

8.30pm KEEPING UP APPEARANCES with Patricia Routledge. Hyacinth decides it is time she shared her experience of being a perfect housewife (45/18738)

9.00pm NEWS (45/18738) and weather (73/115)

9.30pm DANGERFIELD: Inside Out Paul becomes emotionally involved when a prisoner dies in police custody. On the home front, though, he finally has something to celebrate. With Nigel Le Vallant. Last in series (45/18738)

10.20pm FILM: Cape Fear (1991) with Robert De Niro and Nick Nolte. A sadistic psychopath, released from prison after serving a 14-year sentence, is obsessed with taking revenge on the lawyer who unsuccessfully defended him. Directed by Martin Scorsese (45/18738)

12.20pm FILM: Dr. Terror Presents Phantasm (1979) with Angus Scrimm. A recently orphaned boy has a morbid fascination with the strange happenings at the Morningside mortuary and graveyard. Soon he is plunged into a terrifying battle against the sinister Tall Man who runs the establishment. Directed by Dan A. Catanzarri (45/18738)

1.50pm WEATHER (45/18738)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode

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1.50pm WEATHER (45/18738)

2.00pm NEWS (45/18738) and weather (73/115)

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7.25pm TOP OF THE POPS (45/18738)

8.00pm THIS IS YOUR LIFE presented by Michael Aspel (45/18738)

8.30pm KEEPING UP APPEARANCES with Patricia Routledge. Hyacinth decides it is time she shared her experience of being a perfect housewife (45/18738)

9.00pm NEWS (45/18738) and weather (73/115)

9.30pm DANGERFIELD: Inside Out Paul becomes emotionally involved when a prisoner dies in police custody. On the home front, though, he finally has something to celebrate. With Nigel Le Vallant. Last in series (45/18738)

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12.20pm FILM: Dr. Terror Presents Phantasm (1979) with Angus Scrimm. A recently orphaned boy has a morbid fascination with the strange happenings at the Morningside mortuary and graveyard. Soon he is plunged into a terrifying battle against the sinister Tall Man who runs the establishment. Directed by Dan A. Catanzarri (45/18738)

1.50pm WEATHER (45/18738)

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3.30pm THE ANIMALS OF FARTHING WOOD (45/18738)

4.30pm THE ADVENTURES OF JIMMY QUEST (45/18738)

5.00pm GRANGE HILL (45/18738)

5.00pm NEWSROUND (45/18738)

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6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: OUT OF THE MELTING POT (57/1029)

7.00am REFLECTIONS ON A GLOBAL SCREEN (57/1029) 7.15 SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS (45/18738)

9.20am STYLE CHALLENGE (41/18738)

9.45am KILROY (45/18738)

10.30am CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK (45/18738)

11.00am NEWS (45/18738) and weather (27/53825)

11.05am THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW (45/18738)

11.45am SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (45/18738)

12.00am NEWS (45/18738) and weather (40/14825)

12.05pm ALLAS SMITH AND JONES (45/18738)

12.55pm THE WEATHER SHOW (45/18738)

1.00pm NEWS (45/18738) and weather (73/115)

1.30pm REGIONAL NEWS (45/18738)

1.40pm NEIGHBOURS (45/18738)

2.00pm CALL MY BLUFF (45/18738)

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